12
BLOOD LAD
YUUKI KODAMA

BLOOD LAD

RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE.

EVERYONE IS WAITING.
GII (CREAK)
ギィ…

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 56 ♠ REQUEST TO KILL

YUUKI KODAMA

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 56 ♠ REQUEST TO KILL

YUUKI KODAMA

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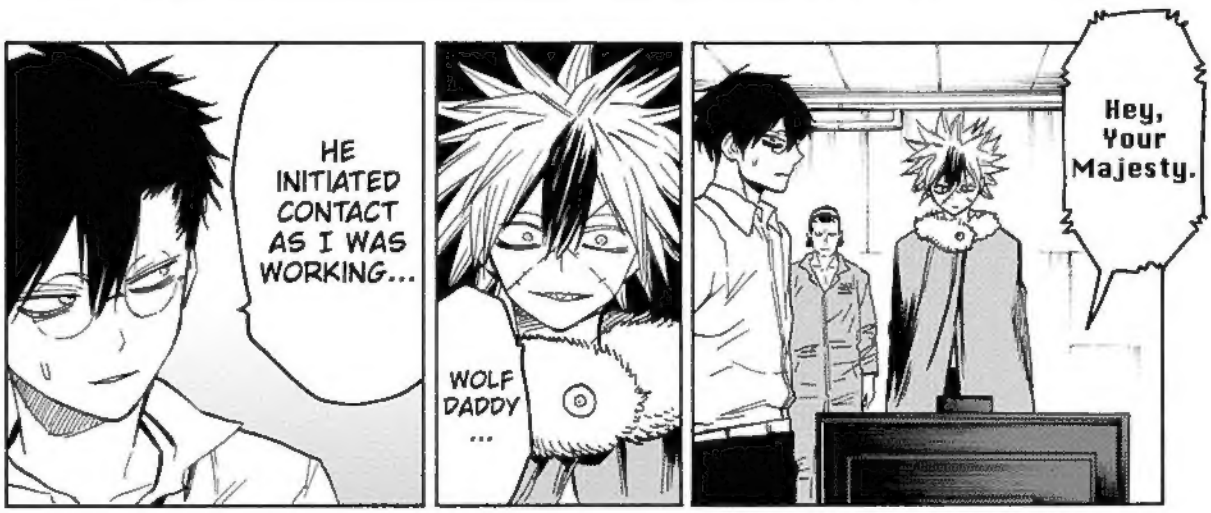
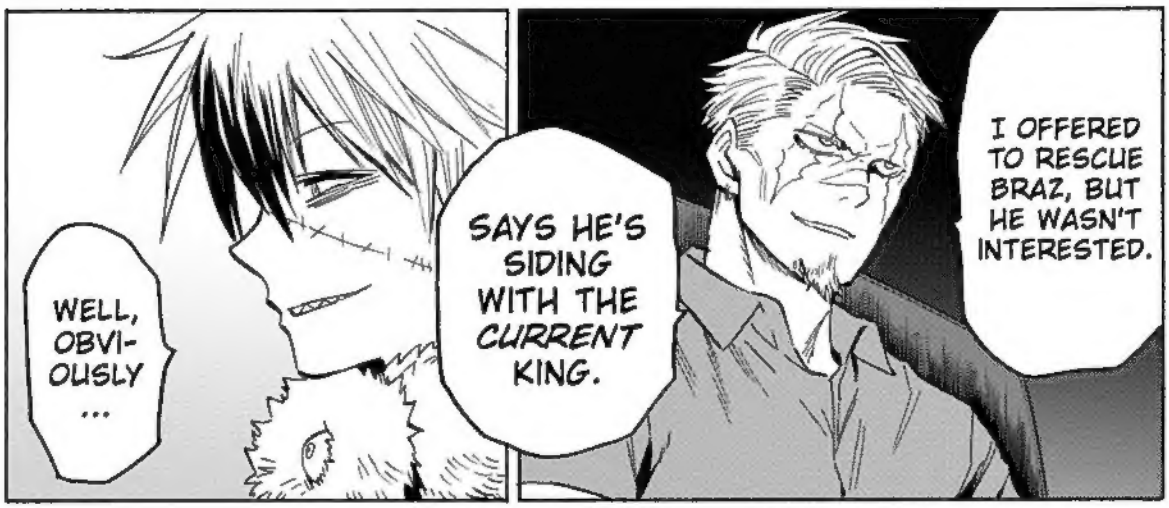
KING AKIM!

IF I MIGHT HAVE A WORD ...
BRAZ... WHAT'S THE HURRY?
RIGHT NOW I'M ABOUT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT LIST.
COULD IT WAIT?

WOLF DADDY WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU.
IT'S ABOUT THE LIST...


HE INITIATED CONTACT AS I WAS WORKING...
WOLF DADDY ...
Hey, Your Majesty.


WELL, OBVI-OUSLY ...
SAYS HE'S SIDING WITH THE CURRENT KING.
I OFFERED TO RESCUE BRAZ, BUT HE WASN'T INTERESTED.

NO ONE WILL OPPOSE ME...
...
WHICH DOES MAKE IT KIND OF LONELY, BUT YOU KNOW. ☆
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL WANT TO OPPOSE ME...
...WOLF DADDY.
HEH... IT'S NOT JUST ME, Y'KNOW.
ACTUALLY I WANTED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OLD FRIENDS OF MINE...

THE DEMON COLORS ...

DO

VIOLET.

DO

MA-
GENTA.

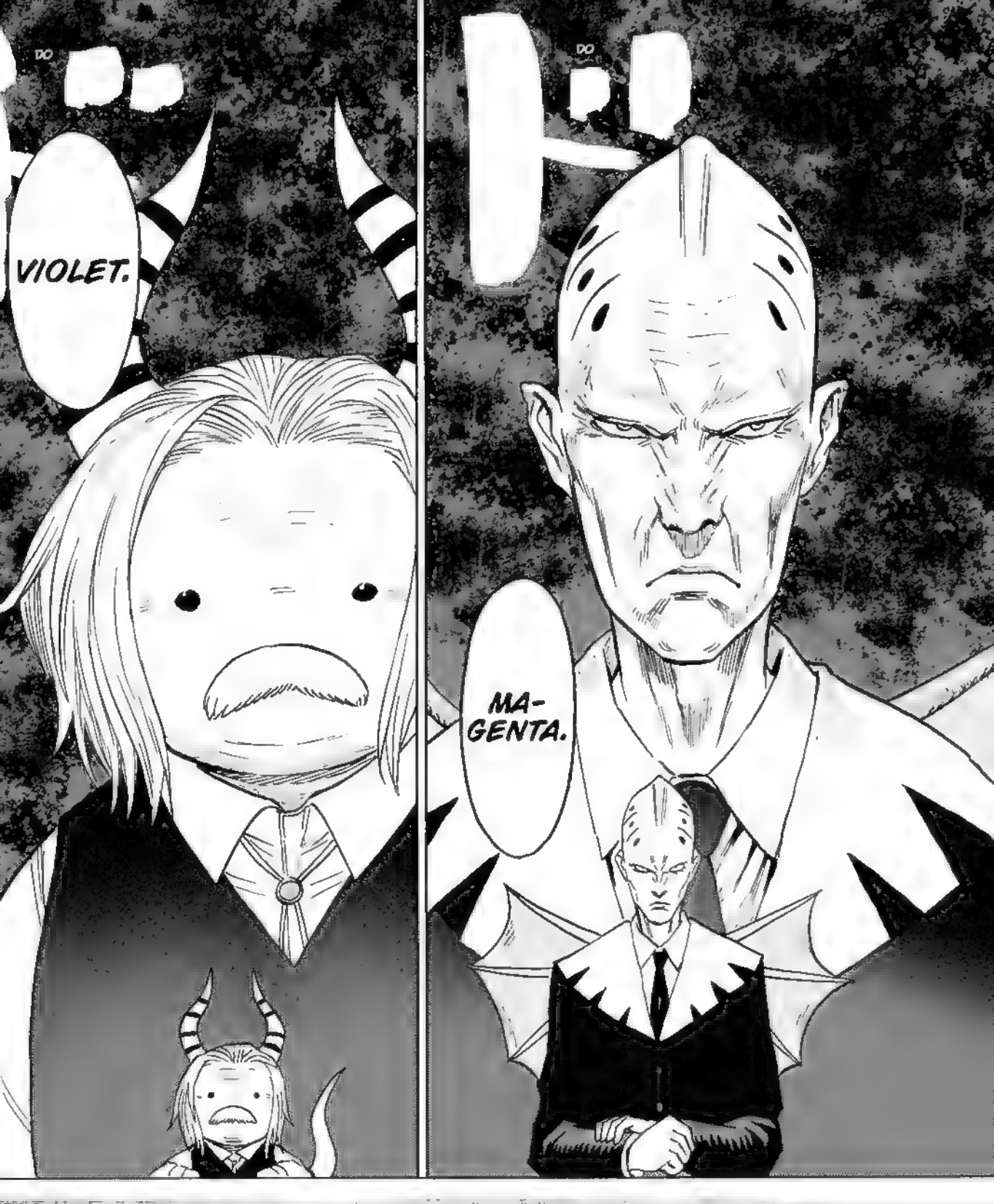
DO

BROWN.

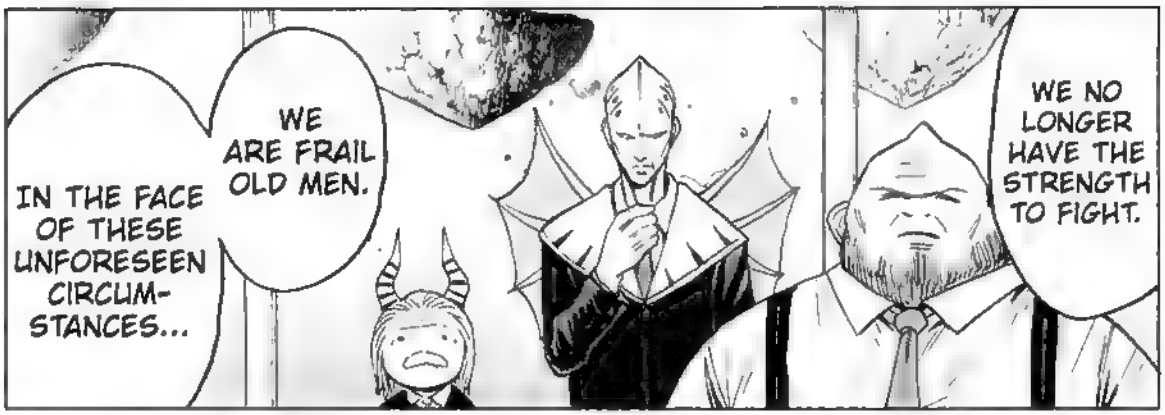
DO
(VM)

BLUE.

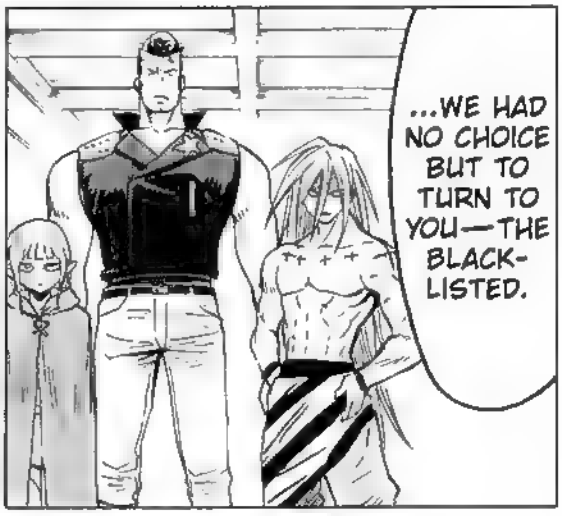
DO
BROWN.
DO
(VM)
BLUE.


DO
VIOLET.
DO
MA-
GENTA.

... UNDER THE DIRECT COMMAND OF THE KING.
THEY'RE THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF A SECRET TASK FORCE...
THESE GUYS ...
.....
I ♥ FYN
WOLF DADDY WAS RED, IF I REMEMBER RIGHT.
LIKE THE KING OF OLD WAS WAY INTO THE POWER RANGERS OR SOMETHING.
I AM THE THIRTEENTH BLUE...AND THE MAN IN COMMAND OF THIS OPERATION.
THANKS FOR COMING...
KA (TAP)
JUST HOW MANY WERE THERE, ANYWAY ...?
...BUT ONE BY ONE THE COLORS DWINDLED TO WHAT YOU SEE NOW...
BACK THEN, IT'S SAID, THERE WERE SEVENTEEN COLORS...
OUR FOREBEARS WERE ORGANIZED UNDER THE RULE OF THE FIRST KING OF THE DEMON WORLD, HERRSCHAFT GRIMM.

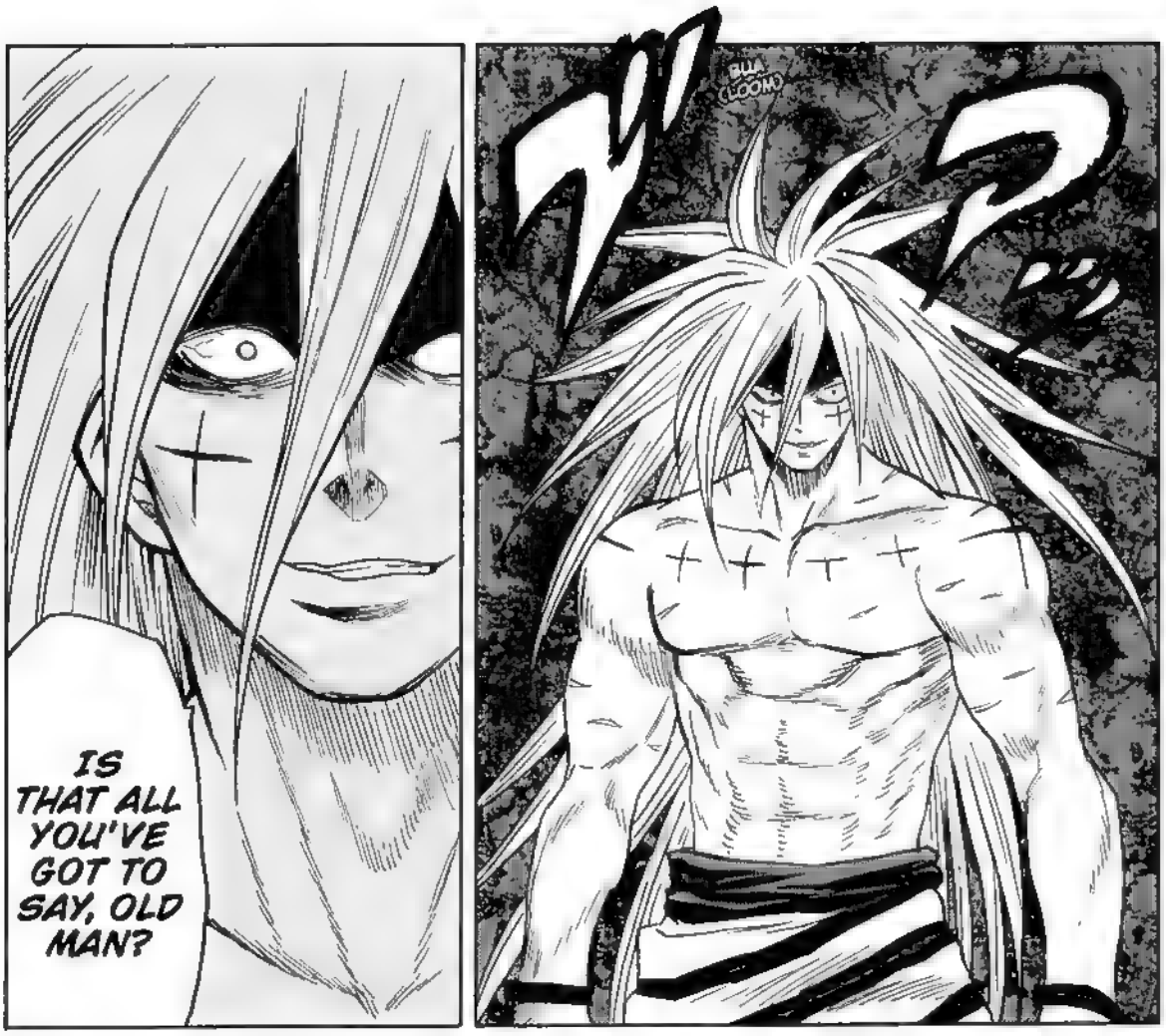

IN THE FACE OF THESE UNFORESEEN CIRCUM-STANCES...
WE ARE FRAIL OLD MEN.
WE NO LONGER HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU SUM-MONED ME...?
.....


...WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN TO YOU—THE BLACK-LISTED.

RIGHT, AKIM. ABOUT THAT BLACKLIST YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...
...THE DEMON COLORS HAVE ALREADY SECURED IT.

How'd you like to meet them?
ZU (YMMV)
WHERE ARE THEY...?
ZU
THEY'RE SOME-WHERE YOU CAN'T GET TO...
LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.
BAKI (STOMP)
DOO


IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT TO SAY, OLD MAN?
BUA (LOOM)

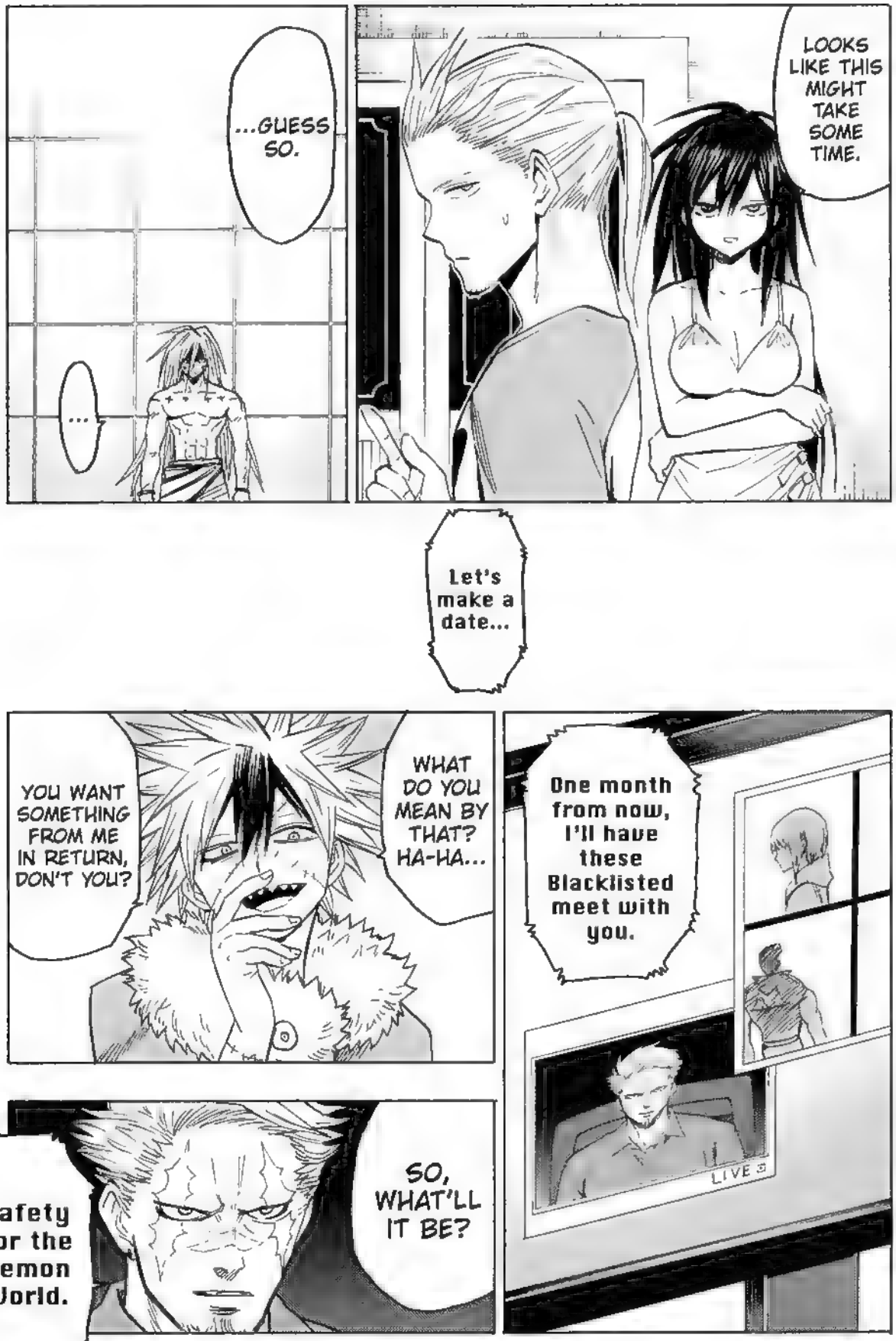
DON (BOOM)

BUN (VM)
!
PARA (DRIFT)
SHAKI! (SHING)
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS SUMMONED.
YOU... JACK... WASN'T IT? I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.

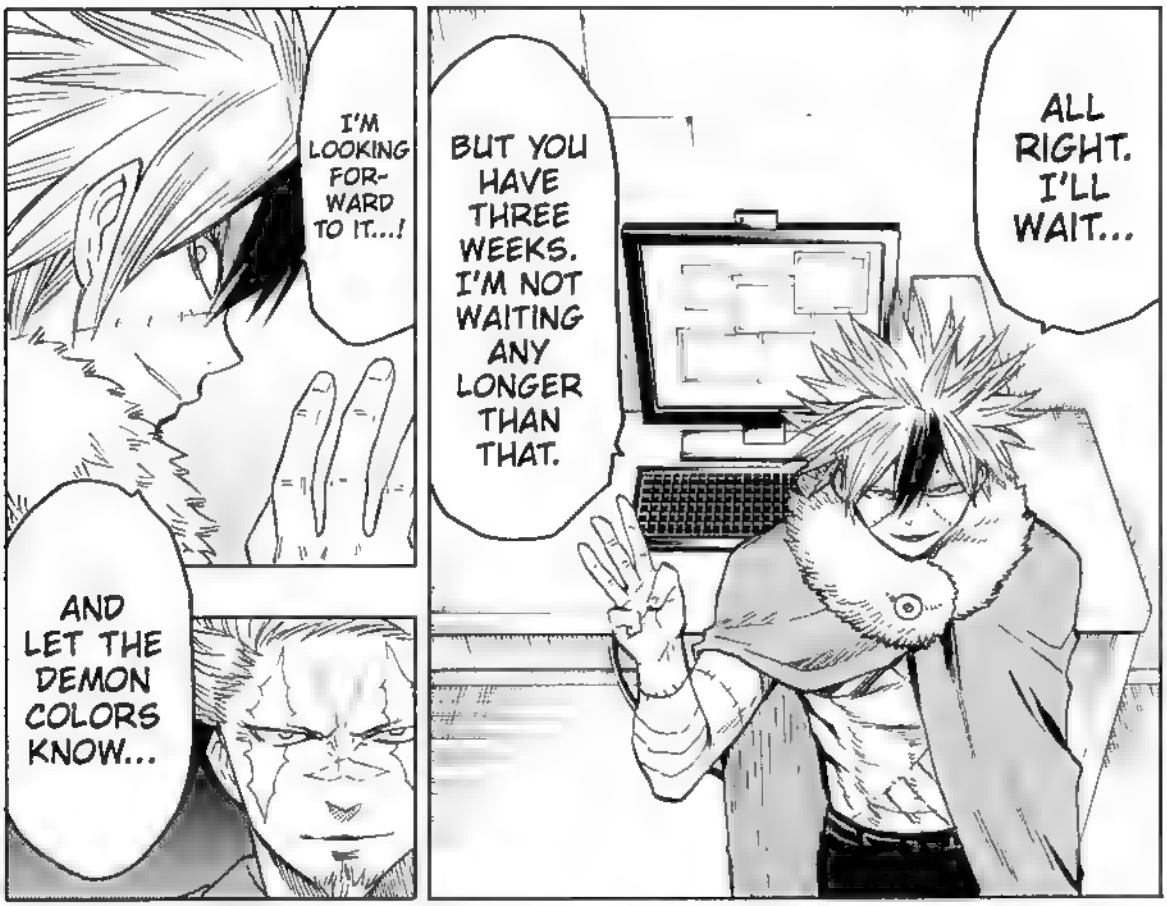
RIGHT... MIST, WAS THAT IT? RAISED BY THE FOREST?
THE FATE OF THE FOREST DEPENDS UPON THEM.
...OH, OKAY, PRIN-CESS.
I'M A MAN...!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T REALLY GET HOW THE WORLD WORKS, SO LET ME EXPLAIN.
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO PUT US ON THE BLACKLIST.
DROVE US RIGHT OFF THE DEMON WORLD GRID AND CALLED US A NUISANCE...
I'M NOT GONNA BE YOUR PAWN.
.....
AND NOW YOU WANT OUR HELP? YEAH, THAT'S RICH.
WELL, THEN. WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
KOKI (CRICK)
KOKI
FIRST OF ALL, I'LL KILL YOU DEAD...
THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS...

...I'LL GO AND KILL THE GUYS YOU WANT ME TO KILL.
EXTERMI-NATION.
I'LL KILL EVERYONE IN HERE... AND THEN...
DO
DO
DO (VMMM)

BWA HA HA ...
HA!
IF THOSE TERMS ARE SUITABLE, I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU OUT... HEH-HEH.
DOO (LOOM)
PACHIN (SNAP)
I ♥


...GUESS SO.
...
LOOKS LIKE THIS MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME.
Let's make a date...
YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM ME IN RETURN, DON'T YOU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? HA-HA...
One month from now, I'll have these Blacklisted meet with you.
LIVE
SO, WHAT'LL IT BE?
Safety for the Demon World.

That's the condition for a meeting with the Blacklisted.
While we're getting everything ready, you don't cause any more harm in the Demon World...
Not a bad deal... right?
...you can wait one month and meet the parts you know you want.
One month. You can try to search blindly for parts to collect, or...
YOU THINK THESE BLACK-LISTED GUYS CAN TAKE ME DOWN...?
YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF FAITH...
NI 'Y (GRIN)


I'M LOOKING FOR-WARD TO IT...!
AND LET THE DEMON COLORS KNOW...
BUT YOU HAVE THREE WEEKS. I'M NOT WAITING ANY LONGER THAN THAT.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL WAIT...

OUR...?
...THEY'D BETTER LIVE UP TO OUR EXPEC-TATIONS.

DID HE... JUST...?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BRAZ?
.....
NOTH-ING.
.....
ANYWAY. WOLF DADDY...
I know.
HE CAN'T BE...
IT'S NOTHING ...

THERE WERE SOME ISSUES...
THERE'D BE TROUBLE IF WE HAD AKIM LOOKING FOR THE BLACKLIST HIMSELF...
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY I TOLD AKIM ABOUT THE BLACKLIST AND THE DEMON COLORS, RIGHT?
Yes... I think you could have waited longer.
OOOOOO CLOOOOMD
...I SEE... THEN, SHALL I...
I WON'T BE NEEDING IT ANY-MORE.
OH, THAT.
I HAVE THAT LIST FOR YOU...
KING AKIM.

There's a possibility that he could find the fourth...
OH, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE IT THERE.
But...
He transforms into a rampaging Bigfoot—he couldn't control it, and that's why he was Blacklisted...
His name is Little Pati.
!
ガチャ
GACHA
...and now he's off the Blacklist... just quietly living his own life.
But he did learn to control it, with help from a certain someone...

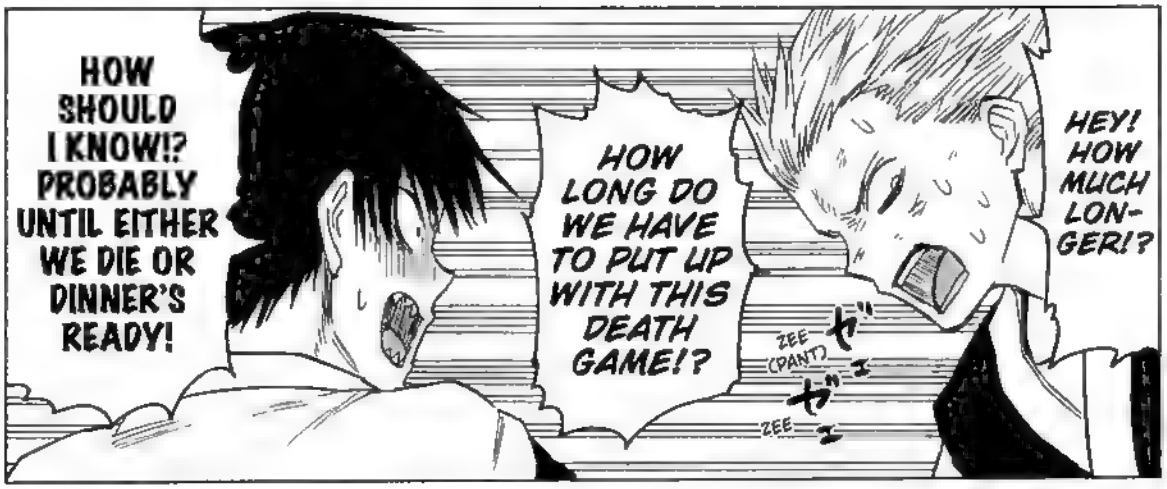
WOLF DADDY... WILL YA PROMISE ME ONE THING...?

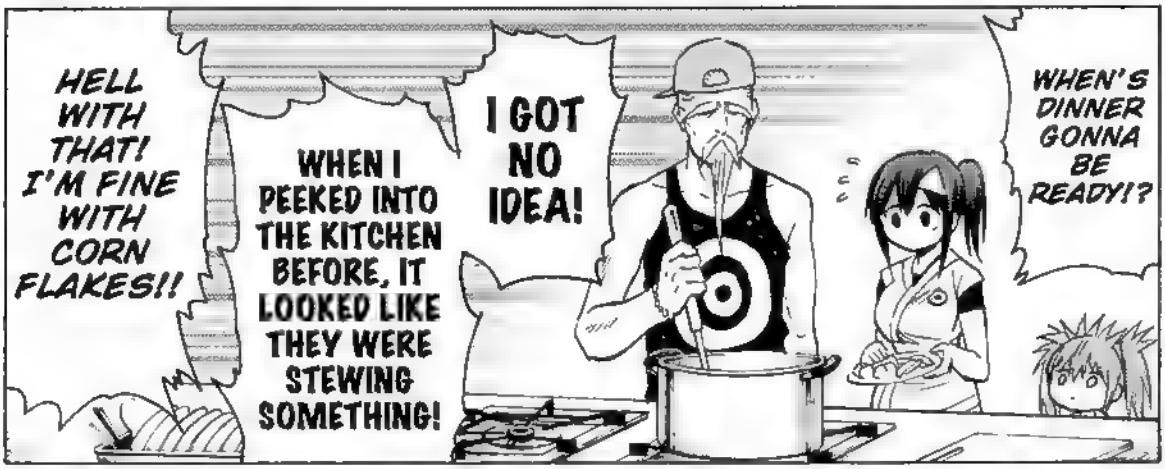
For him, it's the normal life he always wanted.

IT'S AN OLD ENTRY, BUT IT'LL POP RIGHT UP IF ANYBODY LOOKS FOR IT.
ABOUT PATI, THOUGH...
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF STAZ AND WOLF...
HE'S SUCH A NICE BOY...
SO I'M ASKING YOU... DON'T GET THAT BOY INVOLVED...

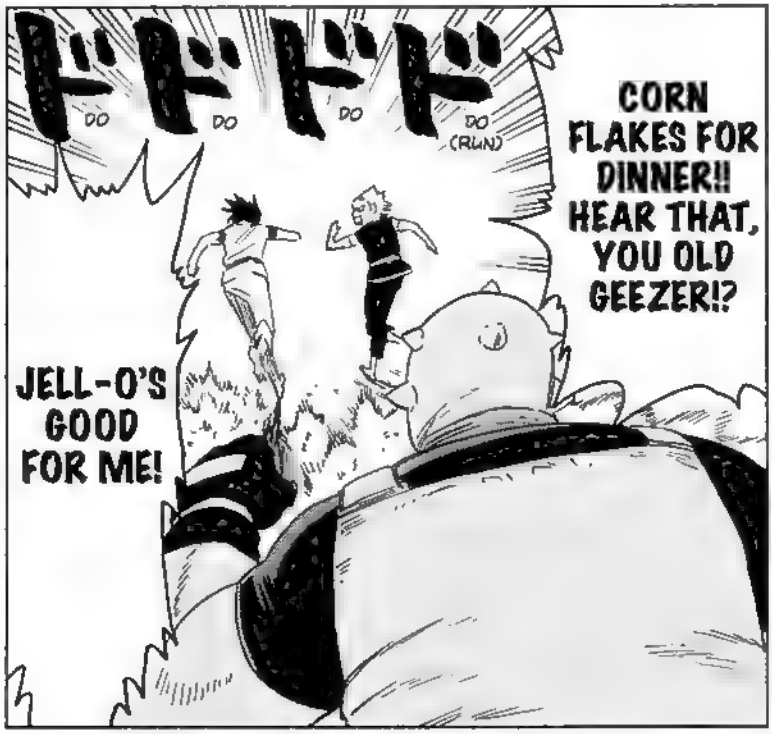
SO WE HUNT THESE GUYS NEXT?
THEY WERE JUST SAYING... IT'S THE BLACKLIST.
NO.
HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
OH. RIGHT.
THEY WERE JUST SAYING.
HE DOESN'T WANT US TO DO THAT ANY-MORE.
THEN WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO FOR FUN?

BUO (VOOM)
KILL
DOGGO (WHAM)
BWAAAH!!


HOW SHOULD I KNOW!? PROBABLY UNTIL EITHER WE DIE OR DINNER'S READY!
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS DEATH GAME!?
ZEE (PANT)
ZEE
HEY! HOW MUCH LONGER!?

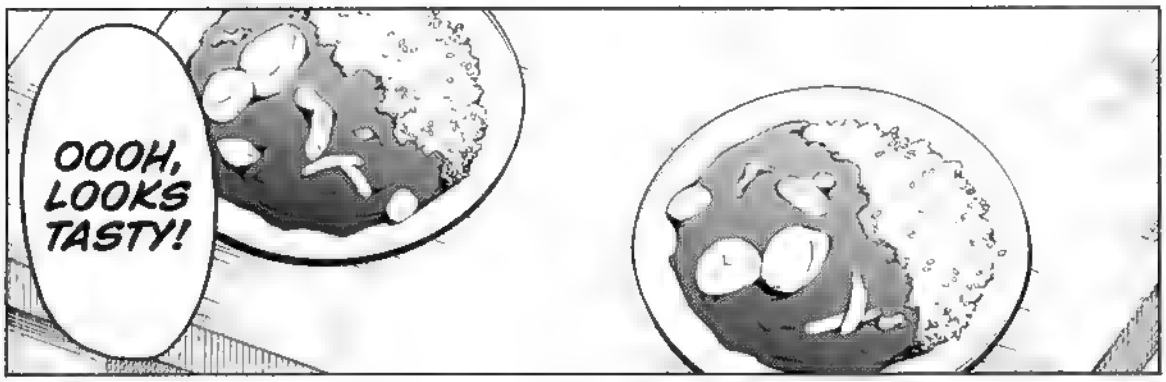

HELL WITH THAT! I'M FINE WITH CORN FLAKES!!
WHEN I PEEKED INTO THE KITCHEN BEFORE, IT LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE STEWING SOMETHING!
I GOT NO IDEA!
WHEN'S DINNER GONNA BE READY!?

GA (TRIP)
JELL-O AND WATER ...
ACK!!
GUH.

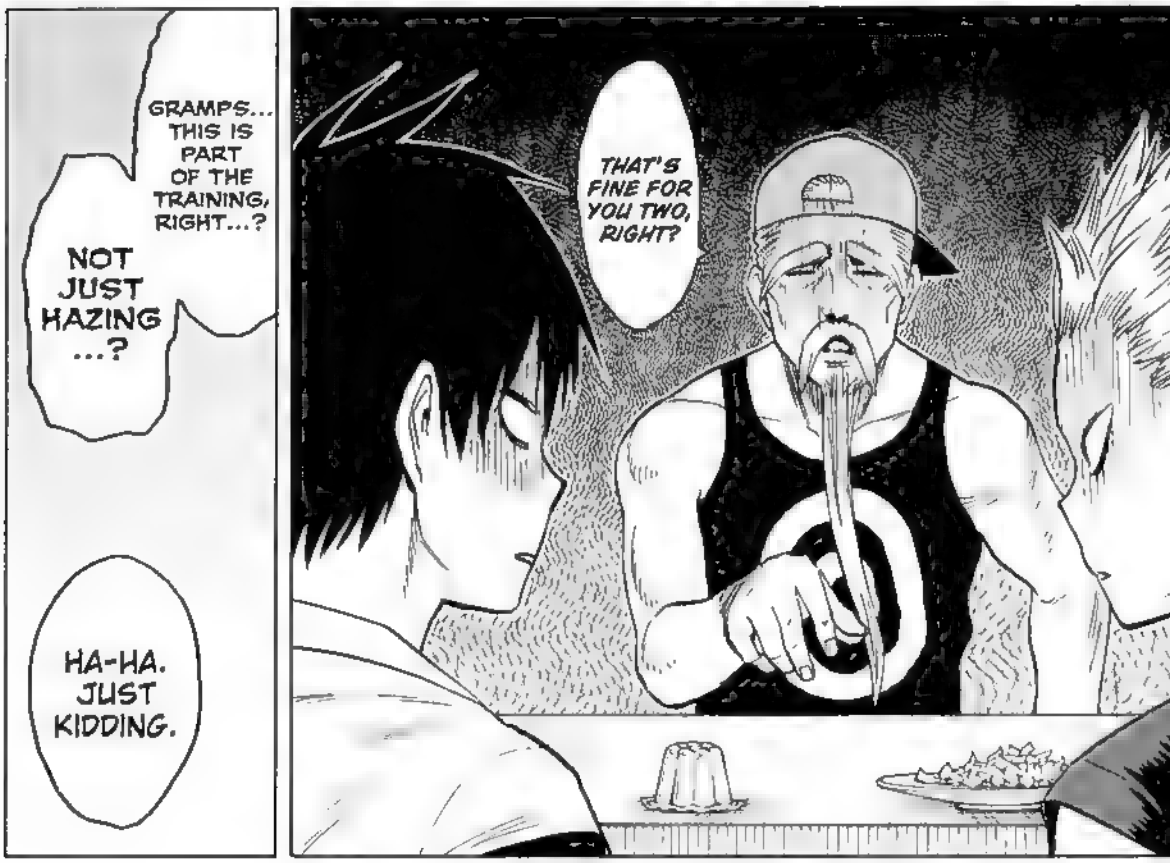

ドドドド
DO
DO
DO
DO (RUN)
CORN FLAKES FOR DINNER!! HEAR THAT, YOU OLD GEEZER!?
JELL-O'S GOOD FOR ME!

STAZ!
KILL
DOSA (THUD)
GOO (WHOOSH)
PI
PI
PI
PI
PI (DIT)
NIGHT, NIGHT ...
KILL
... LITTLE BOY.

HUFF! HUFF!
HFF! HFF!
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S IT FOR TODAY'S DESTROY TIME.
AWWW.
=BEEP=
HUFF! HUFF!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? DON'T DO THAT...
WOULD YOU LIKE AN EXTENSION?
...I GUESS IT IS YOUR FIRST DAY. SO THAT'LL DO.
HA HA.
... WE'LL TAKE THE EXTEN-SION.
SORRY, IT'S GONNA BE A LITTLE BIT LONGER, SO...
...ACTUALLY, AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO...


OOOH, LOOKS TASTY!

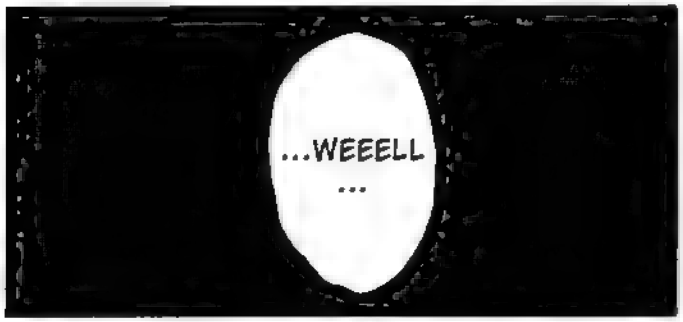
KACHA (CLINK) カチャ
コト KOTO (TUNK)
WAIT... WHERE'S OURS?
HEY, YOU DIDN'T EVEN DO ANY-THING.
YAY!
I LOOOVE CURRY!


GRAMPS... THIS IS PART OF THE TRAINING, RIGHT...?
NOT JUST HAZING ...?
HA-HA. JUST KIDDING.
THAT'S FINE FOR YOU TWO, RIGHT?

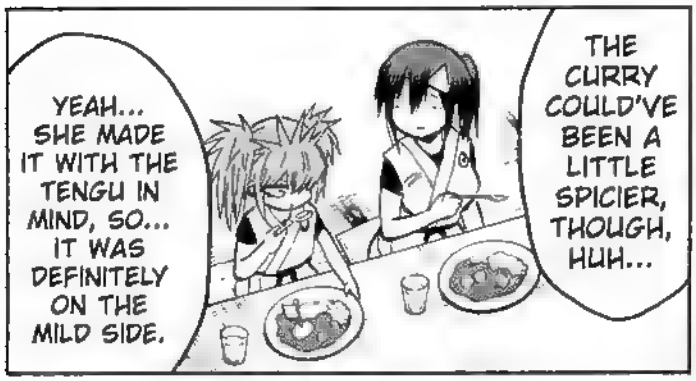
GA
GA
GA (CHOMP)
Hey, don't be too hard on 'em.
RED TELLS ME THAT YOU'RE TRAINING THOSE BOYS IN EXCHANGE FOR LEAVING PATI OUT OF THIS FIGHT...
THEY'RE SO ADORABLE, YOU JUST WANNA PUT 'EM THROUGH THE WRINGER.
WELL, IT'S HARD TO RESIST.
So... how do they look, White?
.....OH, I SEE...
You think they'll be useful?
THAT WOLF DADDY...HE'S TOUGHER THAN I AM ON HIS OWN SON...
IS THAT WHAT HE SAID...?

.....I'VE GOT A LITTLE BIT LEFT IF YOU WANT TO FINISH MINE...

I...I'M SORRY.
THERE ISN'T ANY MORE.
からっ
KARA (EMPTY)


...WEEELL ...

AS OF RIGHT NOW...THEY SURE EAT THEIR FULL SHARE, BUT...
...AS FAR AS ACTUAL STRENGTH GOES...
...EVEN THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAND UP TO A SINGLE BLACK-LISTED.....


YEAH... SHE MADE IT WITH THE TENGU IN MIND, SO... IT WAS DEFINITELY ON THE MILD SIDE.
THE CURRY COULD'VE BEEN A LITTLE SPICIER, THOUGH, HUH...

SPICY ENOUGH FOR YOU?
WHAT ABOUT THIS TRAINING?

BUT THEY DO HAVE POTENTIAL ...

I GOT IT AGES AGO.
LIAR.
YOU WANNA SEE?

HAH.
I COULD TAKE A LITTLE MORE SPICE...
WELL, Y'KNOW, I THINK I GOT THE HANG OF IT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

WE WON'T MOVE FROM THESE STONES.
IT'S FINE. C'MON.

'COS WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO USE VIOLENCE.
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS ...?
BUT YOUR TRAINING'S OVER FOR TODAY, RIGHT...?
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET. BE USEFUL FOR A CHANGE.

UHHH ...
GOT IT.
LET'S TAKE TURNS. FIRST ONE TO GET HIT TEN TIMES LOSES...ALL RIGHT?

TEN.
...FIVE?
...
TEN TIMES!
CAN'T WE JUST MAKE IT THREE TIMES?

I WONDER HOW IT'S GOING OVER THERE...?
WITH THE PROBLEM CHILDREN OF THE DEMON WORLD!
..... EVERY-THING LOOKS GOOD AT THIS END.
... SEVEN ...
HEH HEH.
BAN (BAM)
WHAT'S THIS?

♠ To Be Continued ♠

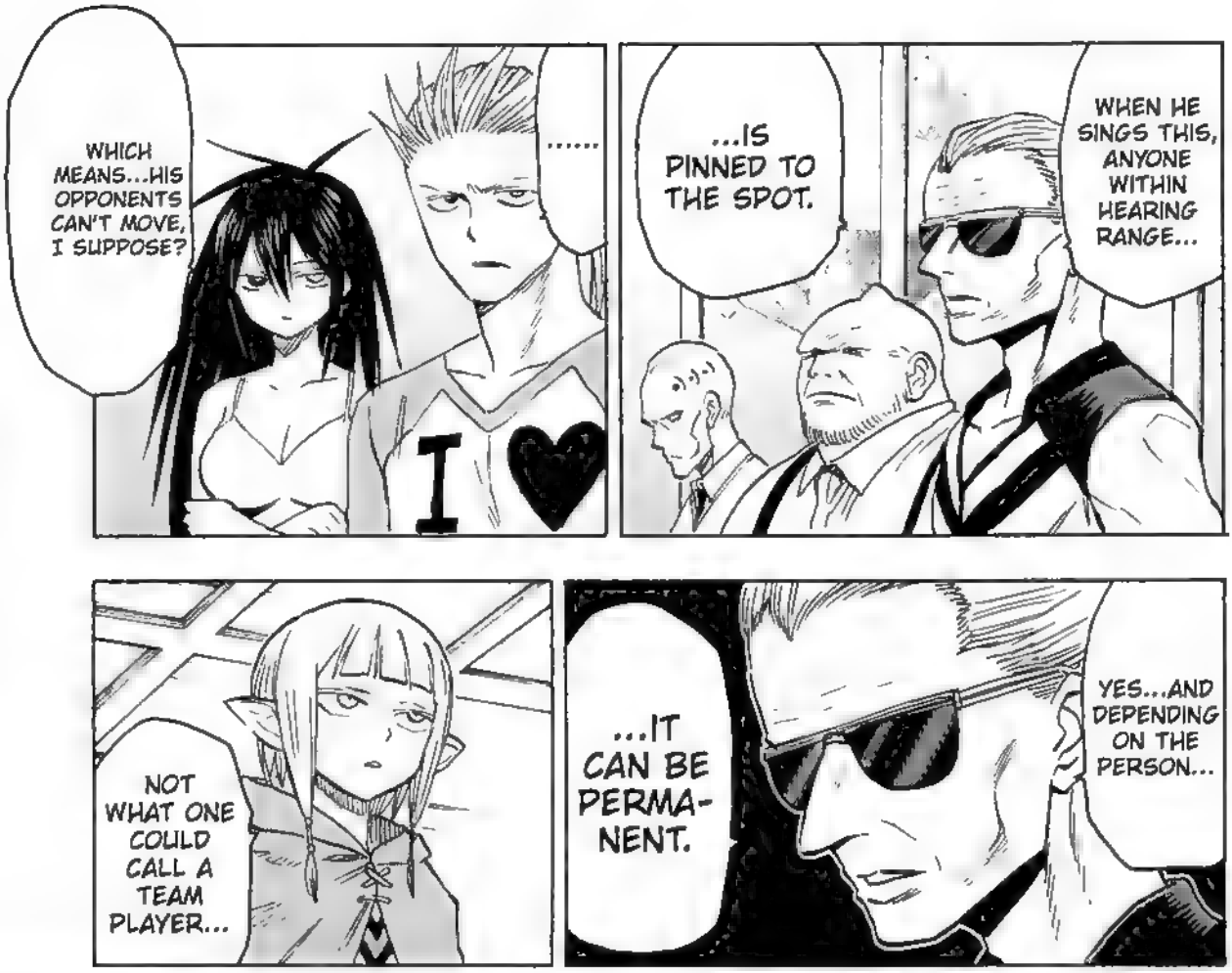
BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 57 ♠ BATTLEFIELD

ド ド ド ド ド
DO DO DO DO DO
(VMM)
THEY SAID YOU'RE UNUSUALLY TOUGH...
...I SAW YOU ON THE NEWS A LONG TIME AGO.
I KNOW YOU...
I GET THE FEELING... MAYBE I COULD REALLY SING IN FRONT OF YOU.
HUH?
I GOT NO IDEA...
...WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
BAN (BAM)

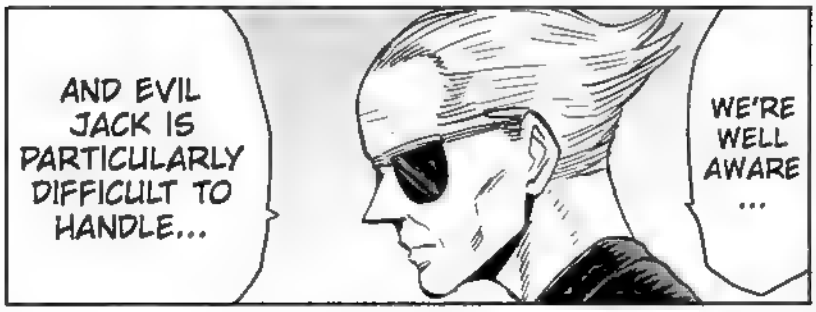
GOO
(ROAR)
SUU
(BREATHE)
BIRI
(BIRI)
BIRI
(JOLT)
!!!!!

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
NGH...AAAH!
NO...
NOOOOOO!
A PIECE FROM THE REPERTOIRE OF SHTEYN DOJI...
"CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE."


WHICH MEANS...HIS OPPONENTS CAN'T MOVE, I SUPPOSE?
.....
I ♥
...IS PINNED TO THE SPOT.
WHEN HE SINGS THIS, ANYONE WITHIN HEARING RANGE...
NOT WHAT ONE COULD CALL A TEAM PLAYER...
...IT CAN BE PERMA-NENT.
YES...AND DEPENDING ON THE PERSON...

WE ARE INCAPABLE OF WORKING TOGETHER.
BUT THIS IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
...TO SUBDUE AKIM, THE ONE WHO IS DISTURBING THE PEACE OF THE DEMON WORLD.
I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU GATHERED US HERE ...

=GLARE=


AND EVIL JACK IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO HANDLE...
WE'RE WELL AWARE ...

MEKYO
MEKYO
MEKYO (GLARE)

IT'S A REFLEX WHEN HE'S DRIVEN INTO A CORNER, TO THE LIMIT OF WHAT HE CAN ENDURE.
THE BER-SERKER LURK.
DO
DO (VMM)

AND ONCE HE ENTERS *THAT* STATE, THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM.
HE BECOMES AN UNTHINKING BEAST...
... INVULNERABLE TO ANY MAGICAL ATTACKS...
!
KNOWING NOTHING OF FRIEND OR FOE...
...HE ATTACKS WHATEVER'S IN FRONT OF HIM.

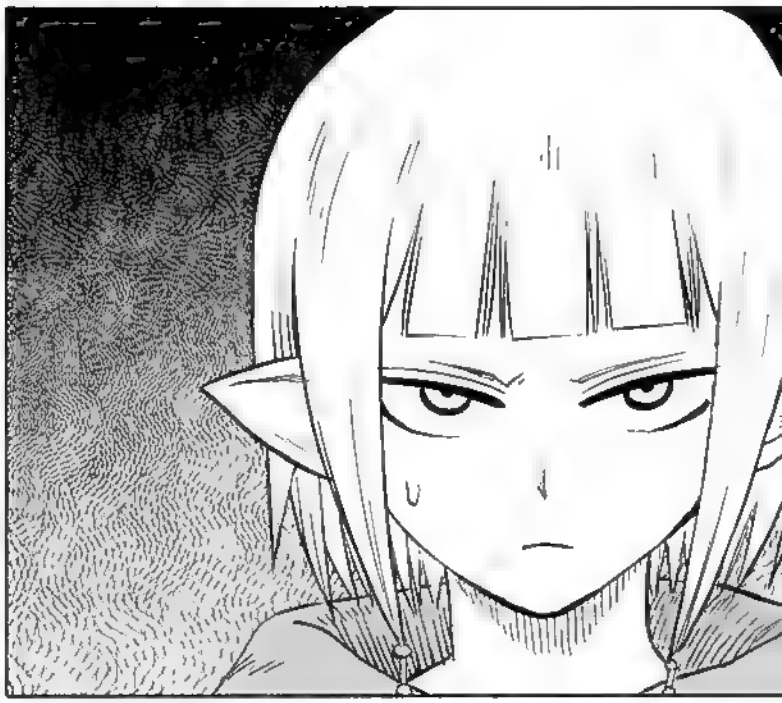
O... OKAY.
QUICKLY!
WHA?
BA (TURN)
NO...! PLEASE, GET DOJI OUT OF THERE!
GUA (BWOM)
I ♥ EYN
O (LOOM)

BAGYA
(CRASH)

...
YES... WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY...
MIST... WE NEED YOUR POWER—
YOUR SPIRITUAL SONAR.
...WE WANT YOU TO TAME THOSE TWO WILD ANIMALS.
JUST AS THE WOODLAND CREATURES OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO YOU...

...
THEY ARE MY EQUALS, AND MY FRIENDS.
I HAVE NOT TAMED MY FELLOW FOREST CREA-TURES.
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET THOSE TWO ON EQUAL GROUND ...
LET ME REPHRASE THAT.
...OF COURSE. FORGIVE US.
...AND BECOME THEIR FRIEND...

.....

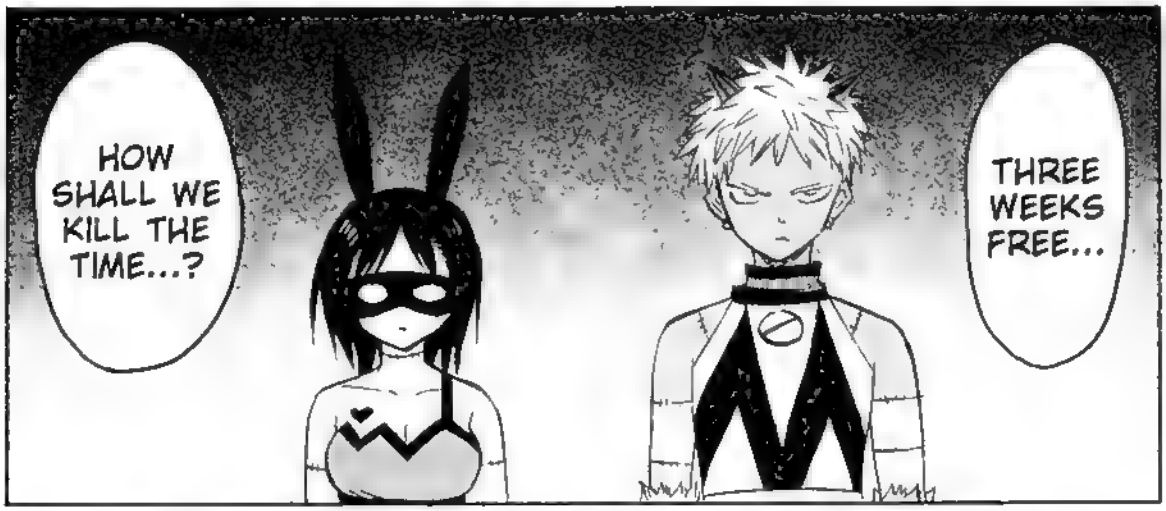


...IF THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE ...

...BUT THE ENTIRE DEMON WORLD WILL FALL TO RUIN...
オオオオオ
OOOO (HOWL)
...THEN, NOT ONLY YOUR FOREST...

オオオオオ
OOOOO
...UNDER THE REIGN OF AKIM.

オオオオ
...NOW, THEN.


HOW SHALL WE KILL THE TIME...?
THREE WEEKS FREE...

I WANNA GO SEE THE LOWER DEMON WORLD.
OOH, OOH, I KNOW!

AREN'T THERE ANY OTHER GAMES TO PLAY?
...WE CAN'T HUNT, CAN WE?

PAPA JUST GOT AN IDEA.
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
OH YES.
I DUNNO, BUT IT'LL BE FUN!
AND WHAT WILL YOU DO THERE?

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO

...HOW ABOUT THOSE MOUNTAINS THERE...
キュイイイ
KYUIII (SWEEEEEND)
ドゥ
DOU (PSHOOOM)

I'M GOING TO PREPARE A FITTING STAGE FOR THE OCCASION.

A PLACE WHERE THOSE WARRIORS CAN GO BEAUTIFULLY TO THEIR FATES...

ドドド

DO

DO

ゴゴ

GOOOO (ROOOOAR)

ドドド

DO

DO

DO

DO (BOOM)

ゴゴ

ドドド

I'M GOING TO PREPARE A FITTING STAGE FOR THE OCCASION.
DO
DO
A PLACE WHERE THOSE WARRIORS CAN GO BEAUTIFULLY TO THEIR FATES...
GOOOO (ROOOOAR)

DO
(VWM)
DO
A BATTLE-FIELD.
DO
DO

ズゾゾゾ…!
ZUZZUUN (BOOOOM)

NOT THE PLACE ON THE MAP WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HEADING, IS IT?
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!

HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT...?
... SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM THE MOUN-TAINS.
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!

GOTCHA!!
GOO (VOOM)

ドサ
DOSA (WHUD)

ヒョイ
HYOI (FWIP)

SERIOUSLY. HOW ARE YOU EVEN ALIVE?
うぅ
(SOB)
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A FIGHT?
WE CAN SEE EVERY SINGLE BLOW THAT'S COMIN'.
YOU SUCK AT THIS.
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
.....
OKAY, YOU CAN STOP NOW.

?
SOME-THING'S WRONG!! THE OLD MAN—
HE DISAP-PEARED !!
OH, HEY, TENGU... ER, LIZ.

STAZ!
GARA (SLIDE)
EVEN THE TENGU'S A BETTER FIGHTER ...

IT WAS TELEPOR-TATION MAGIC.

HE DISAP-PEARED INTO THIN AIR! RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!
ANYWAY, FORGET THAT, JUST NOW IN THE MOUNTAINS THERE WAS—
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT...YOU SURE HE DIDN'T JUST GO TO THE STORE OR SOMETHING?
SUN (SNIFF) SUN
HEY, HEY...

...THAT JUST SUDDENLY FELL DOWN ONTO HIM.
NEVER MIND THE UNO PART...
OKAY ...
AND THEN THE OLD MAN YELLED "UNO!" AND HE DISAP-PEARED!
WE WERE JUST SITTING HERE, PLAYING UNO...
THIS IS...
THAT WEASEL ...
SHE MUST BE WATCHING US FROM SOME-WHERE...
...WE'VE SEEN BEFORE, ISN'T IT...?
IT'S SOME-THING ...

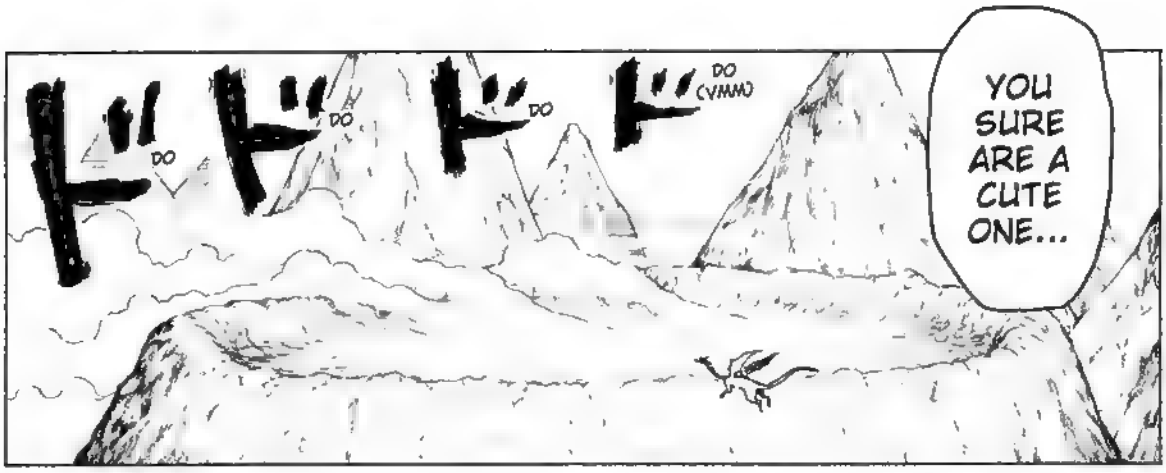
DON (BOOM)
BUT WHAT WOULD SHE WANT WITH THAT OLD MAN...?
.....
SO, GRAMPS.
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
I'M ASKING THE QUESTIONS HERE!
WHAT ARE THOSE GUYS DOING TRAINING AT YOUR DUMB DOJO!?
GAN (DONK)
.....I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION ...
...AND, FOR THAT MATTER, WHERE AM I?

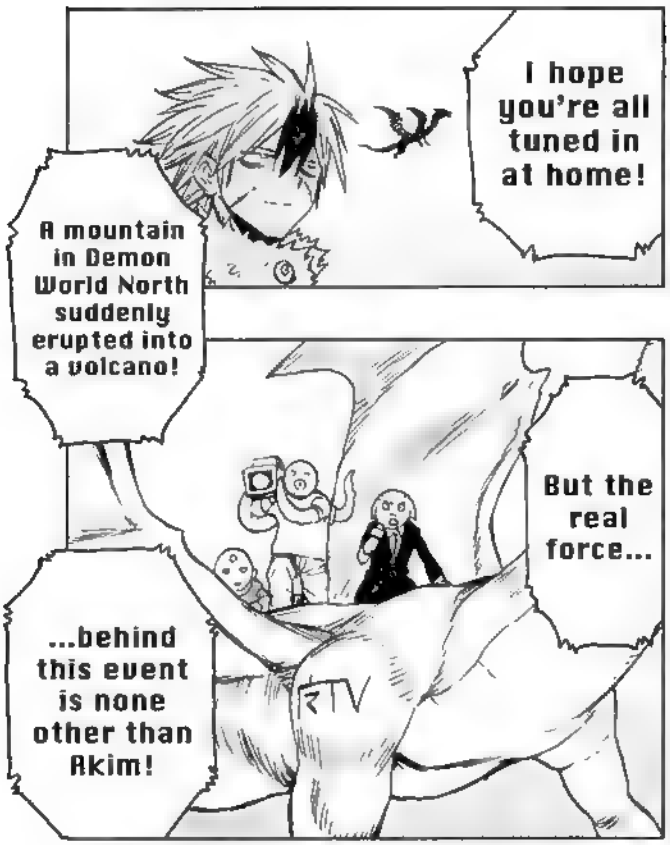
...I'M ONLY TRAINING THOSE BOYS BECAUSE THEY ASKED ME TO... THAT'S ALL.
...WHY...
ヒュオオオオ
HYUOOOO (FWOOOOSH)
WELL... I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT I'M DOING HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WE WERE PLAYING UNO, AFTER ALL...
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT THE UNO! DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M ASKING, YES OR NO!?
SO YOU'RE LIKE THEIR TEACHER OR SOMETHING?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW, ANYWAY ...?
I'M ASKING WHAT KIND OF TRAINING ARE YOU GIVING THEM! WELL!?
HMM?
..... WHAT KINDA TRAINING?
WELL I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT... FOR NOW, ANYWAY.
?
.....
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY ...?
BY FORBIDDING THE PUPILS TO ATTACK IN ANY WAY, ALLOWING THEM TO ACT ONLY PASSIVELY, I AM TRAINING THEIR MAGIC CAPACITY... AND WHAT ABOUT IT?
..... THEY'RE LEARNING TO DODGE...

I MEAN ON THE SIDE THAT DOES THE HITTING. YOU FEEL ME?
DON'T TAKE THAT THE WRONG WAY, GRAMPS! I DON'T WANNA BE YOUR PUPIL.
EH?
ALL RIGHT, THEN.
YEAH, YEAH. THE KILL DEAD SERVICE OR WHATEVER, RIGHT!?
I ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE WHO...
... DON'T NEED YOU.
I WANT IN ON THIS TOO.
JUST LOOK AT ME... CAN'T YOU SEE I AM ONE BAD LADY?
I'M WAY MORE BRUTAL THAN THOSE GUYS!
チラ CHIRA (GLANCE)
チラ CHIRA
WOULDN'T WANT THE SERVICE YOU'RE PAYING FOR TO GO TO WASTE.
WEEELL, YOU'VE GOT TWO, SO... HOW ABOUT I TAKE CHARGE OF JUST ONE OF 'EM? HOW'S THAT SOUND?
OH— OH, RIGHT!!
...YOU STARTED BY ASKING ME ALL THOSE QUESTIONS, BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE KILL DEAD SERVICE...
DUH! SILLY ME!

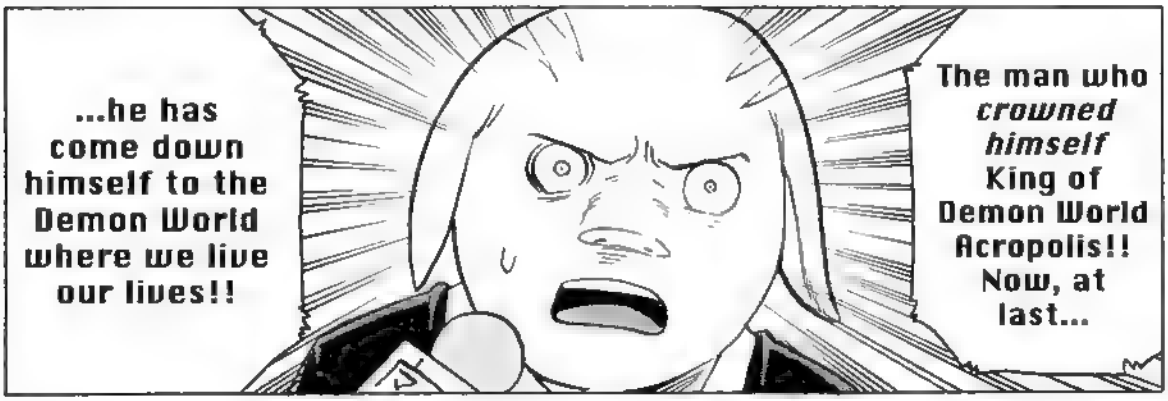
EHHH, DOESN'T MATTER!
WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT ...?
EITHER ONE'S FINE BY ME!!
... HMM.
.....
BUT I DON'T MIND EITHER WAY, REALLY!
THAT'S THE ONE I'D LIKE TO BEAT UP, PROB-ABLY.
HE LOOKS LIKE KIND OF A JACKASS, YOU KNOW?
MAYBE THE BLACK-HAIRED ONE! I GUESS?
MAYBE S...
N...NO CHARGE!
SO... HOW MUCH WILL YOU CHARGE ...?
IF IT'S THE BLACK-HAIRED ONE, I'LL WORK PRO BONO. I JUST WANNA SMACK HIM AROUND.
... HMM.
.....

CAN I ASK... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ...
...IF I WERE TO REFUSE THIS OFFER OF YOURS?
...
HMM.
.....
...
HA HA HA.
MY, MY...
OOO (GLOOM)
...IN THIS TOTALLY RANDOM PLACE. ♡
THEN I LEAVE YOU HERE ALL ALONE ...



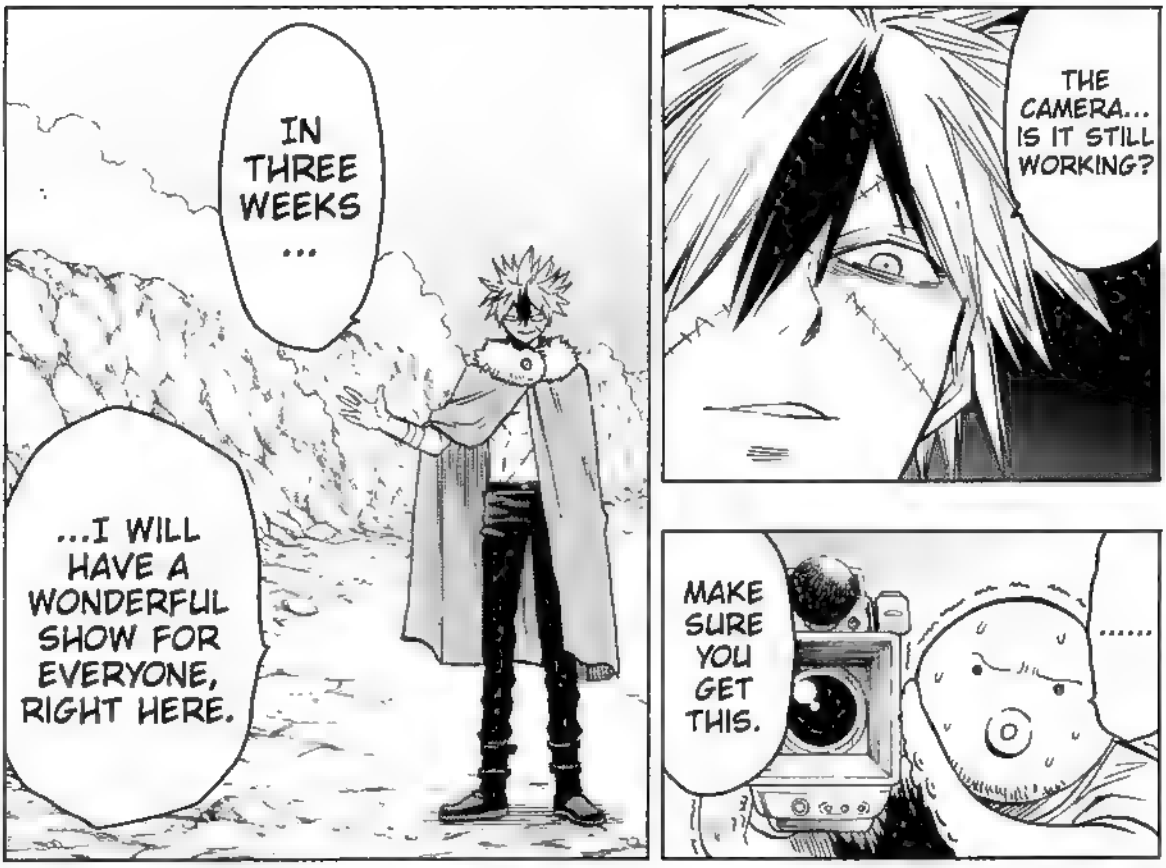

I hope you're all tuned in at home!
A mountain in Demon World North suddenly erupted into a volcano!
But the real force...
...behind this event is none other than Akim!
RTV

DRAGON: DEMON TV

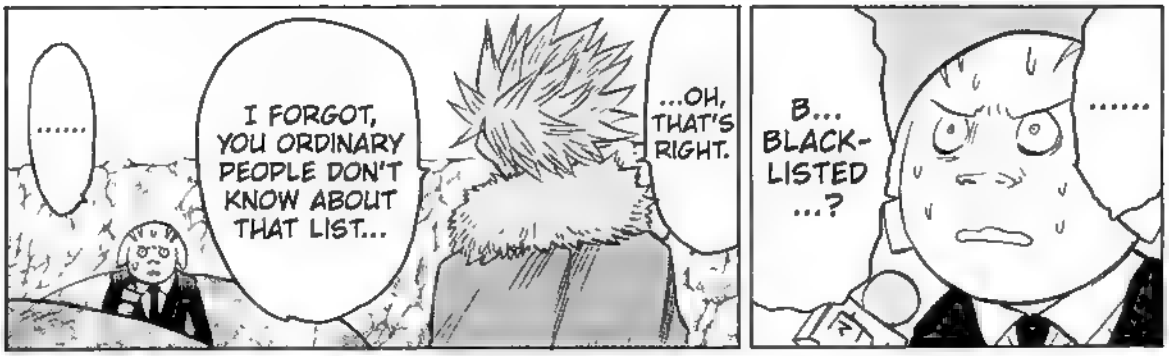

...he has come down himself to the Demon World where we live our lives!!
The man who *crowned himself* King of Demon World Acropolis!! Now, at last...

Is this some kind of performance ...?
His power is great enough to destroy a mountain ...!
It's unbelievable... can he truly be that formidable!?
SU (FWISH)
DON (CHOOM)
!
BANG!
GUH—

KUI
(BECKON)
クイッ…
AAAAAAAH!
BOBON
(BOUNCE)
ボヨン
WHA
…?
WH…
ZA
(KTCH)


IN THREE WEEKS ...
...I WILL HAVE A WONDERFUL SHOW FOR EVERYONE, RIGHT HERE.
THE CAMERA... IS IT STILL WORKING?
MAKE SURE YOU GET THIS.
.....

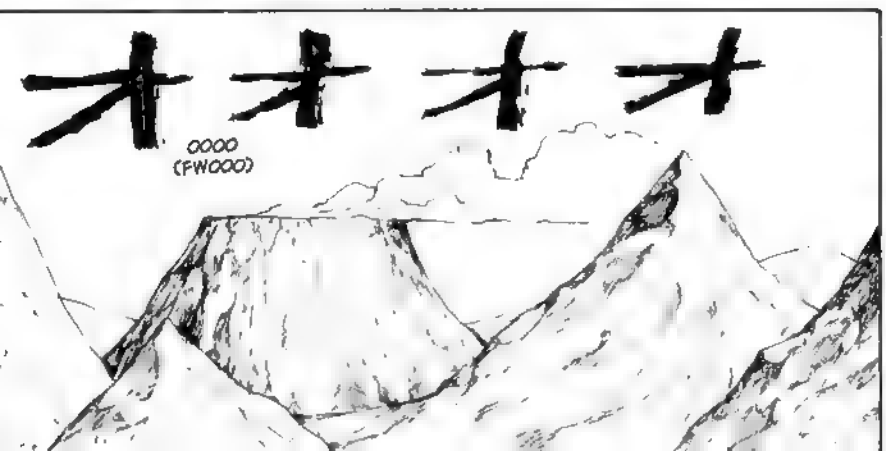
...OF YOUR LAST RESORT FOR THE DEMON WORLD— THE BLACK-LISTED.
THE PUBLIC EXECU-TION...


.....
I FORGOT, YOU ORDINARY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT LIST...
...OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
B... BLACK-LISTED ...?
.....

Well, look into it...
I'm sure you'll find it interesting... Ha-ha-ha-ha!

...YOU HAD TO COME DOWN RIGHT THERE...
AKIM... OF ALL THE DAMN PLACES...

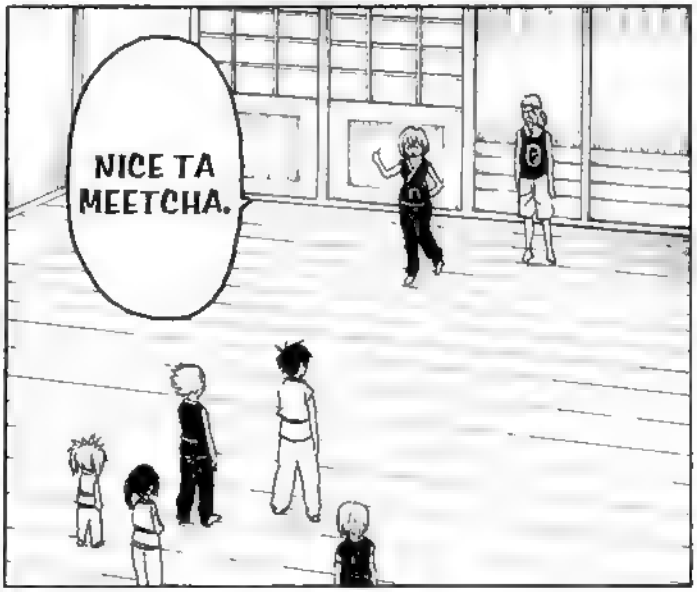
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...


OOOO (FWOOO)

♠ To Be Continued ♠

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 58 ♤
SYMPATHY FOR THE INSTRUCTOR

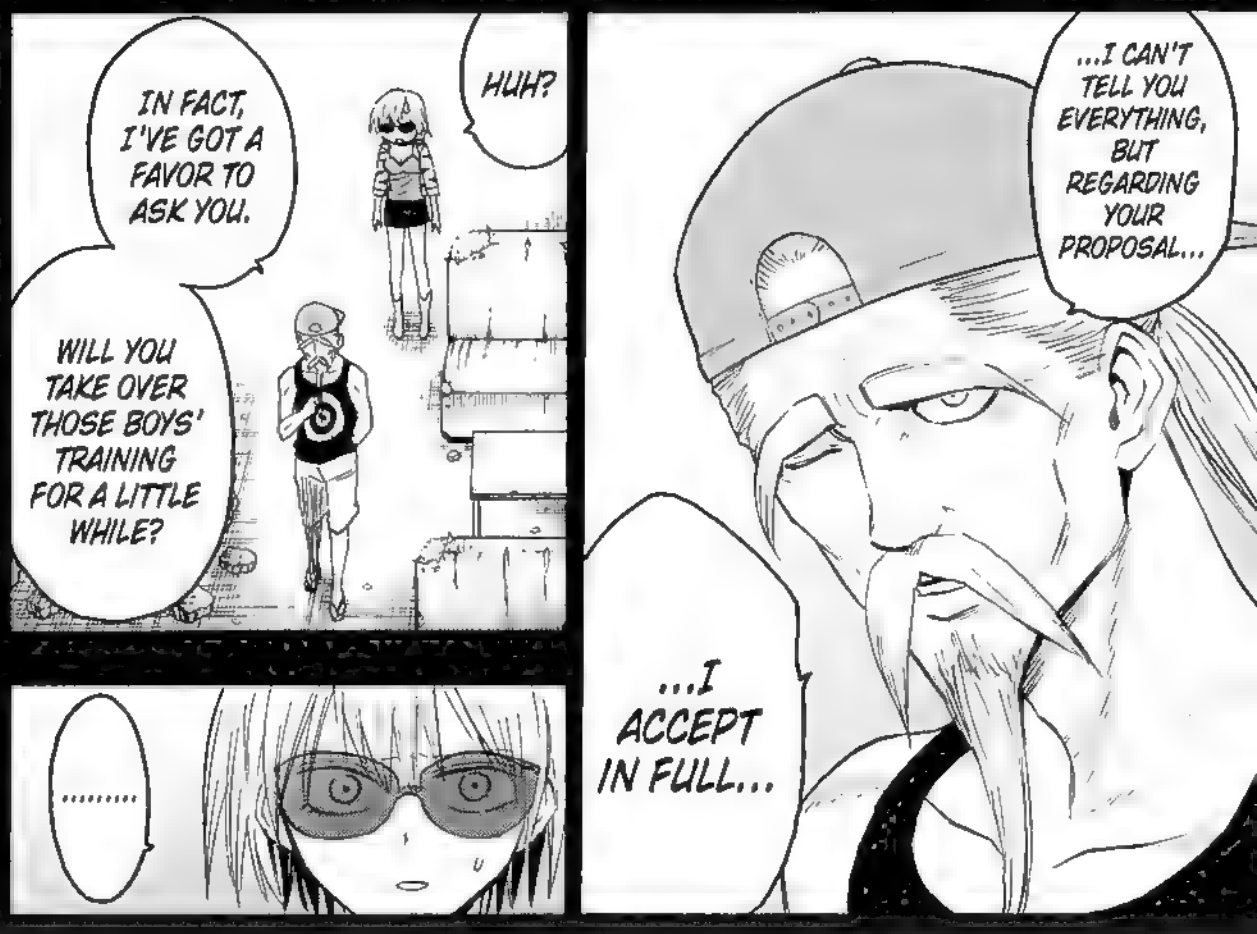


JUST WHEN I THINK, "OH, SHE FINALLY SHOWED HER FACE..." YOU CAN'T JUST SHOW UP NORMAL!?
YOU HAVE TO BE AN INSTRUC-TOR!?
YEP... YOU GOT IT.
I'M HERE TO WHIP YOU INTO SHAPE.
LIKE HELL YOU ARE!!

WHAT KINDA SWEET TALKING DID YOU DO TO THIS POOR OLD GEEZER!?
WELL, ACTUALLY... I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD TIME...
...TO MOVE TO THE NEXT PHASE OF YOUR TRAINING ...

Uuut...
Uuut...
OOPS, 'SCUSE ME...I'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS.
HUH? WHO IS IT?
IT'S WOLF DADDY.

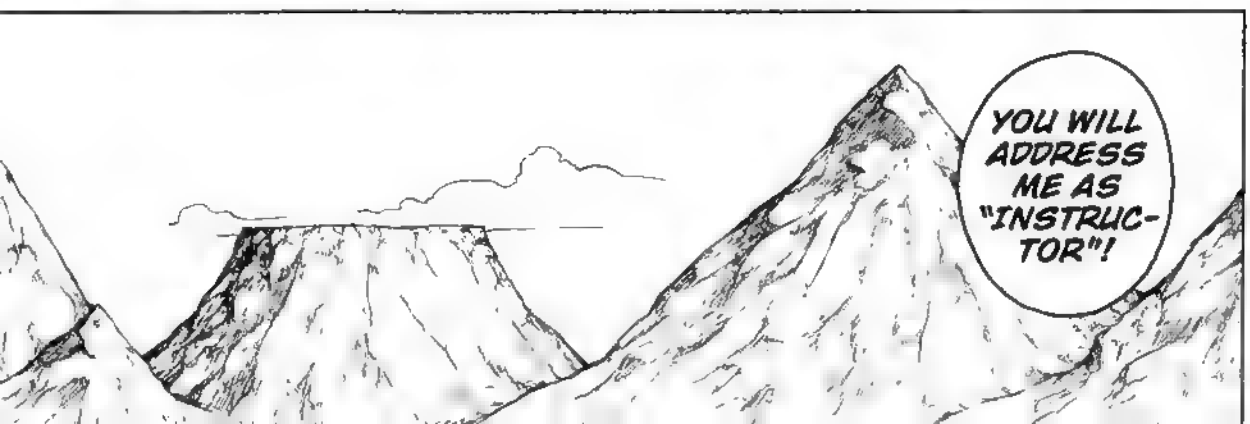
THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH AKIM WENT WELL, BUT...
...SORRY, STEP...
I see... So, then... the deadline is...?
WHAT'S UP?
HELLO, YEAH, IT'S ME.
WHA ...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
.....
UNTIL THEN, AKIM WON'T DO ANYTHING TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DEMON WORLD— I THINK...
...BUT IF HE FINDS OUT ABOUT PATI...
IN THREE WEEKS.
WHY ARE YOU IN CONTACT WITH WOLF DADDY...?
AND WHY DID HE CALL YOU JUST NOW...?
WH... WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ...?
...OKAY... I'LL WORK IT OUT.
PI (BIP)


HUH?
IN FACT, I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
WILL YOU TAKE OVER THOSE BOYS' TRAINING FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
.....
...I CAN'T TELL YOU EVERYTHING, BUT REGARDING YOUR PROPOSAL...
...I ACCEPT IN FULL...

...SO, Y'SEE...
... SOMETHING JUST CAME UP THAT I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF.
BUT DON'T YOU WORRY. SHE HAS A WONDERFUL POWER...

LATER!
SHE'LL EXPLAIN.
HEY! GRAMPS!
SU (VANISH)
...AND I'M SURE WITH HER AS YOUR INSTRUCTOR, YOUR TRAINING WILL PROCEED WONDERFULLY WHILE I'M GONE.
WAIT... SOMETHING CAME UP? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
カシャン
KASHAN (KASHINK)
HEY! BELL!!

ZUZU (GLOWER)
JUST "BELL"?
YOUR TEACHER DESERVES SOME MORE RESPECT, DON'CHA THINK?


YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS "INSTRUC-TOR"!

ZA
CKTCW
...PATI?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING...
.....
MASTER
.....
YOU MUST NOT GO THERE.
YES ...
IT JUST EXPLODED OUT OF NOWHERE ...
WHEN DID YOU COME BACK...OH... DID YOU SEE? THE MOUNTAIN...

THERE IS A GREAT, TERRIBLE EVIL...
YOU... KNOW WHAT IT WAS?
THAT'S WHY I HURRIED OVER HERE TO STOP YOU...
... PATI.
YES...
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MOUNTAIN ...?

GOOO (LOOM)

BUT THAT IS NOT FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
A NIGH UNSTOPPABLE EVIL...

THERE IS A WAY...
..... UMM...
ENOUGH ALREADY. GIMME THAT.
NO!
THIS IS FOR TEACHER'S EYES ONLY!
CHIRA (GLANCE)
チラ
チラ
CHIRA
UHHHH...
OKAY... AHEM. YOU ALL MUST BE WONDERING ABOUT THE NEXT TRAINING EXERCISE ...
SU (RUSTLE)
スー
スー
WE CAN TOTALLY SEE YOU PEEKING AT THAT CHEAT SHEET.
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
WE HAVEN'T GOT THE DODGE DRILL DOWN YET.
...
ISN'T IT TOO SOON TO BE MOVIN' ON?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, WOLF...? THE OLD MAN MADE ME YOUR INSTRUCTOR!
YEAH... THAT DOESN'T MAKE A LOT OF SENSE EITHER, BUT THE THING THAT MAKES EVEN LESS SENSE IS THAT WE'RE ALREADY GOIN' TO THE NEXT PHASE.

WELL... IT'S...
.....
WHY'S THE OLD MAN RUSHING IT?
YOU MADE SOME KINDA WEIRD DEAL WITH HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
WHA— I DID NOT! HE ASKED ME TO!
LIES! THEN WHY'D YOU KIDNAP THE OLD MAN!?
WHY YOU—
YOU WANTED THE JOB, SO YOU DID SOMETHING TO HIM!
YOU JUST LOVE PULLING CHEAP TRICKS LIKE THAT!
SO WHY'D YOU WANT GRAMPS OUT OF THE PICTURE...? HUH?
C'MON, LET'S HEAR IT.

I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!!
BAKYA (WHAM)
DA (DASH)
WHA... HEY!
WAIT ...
BELL!
OH MAN...

...
OW...

THROWS A WAY BETTER PUNCH THAN HER BABY BROTHER... UGH.
CRAP, THAT HURT ...

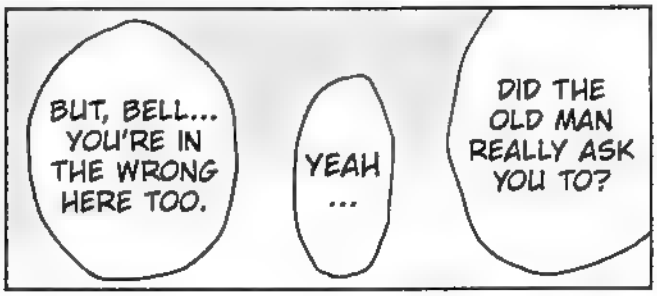
WHA?
STAZ-SAN.

HUH?
ポコッ
POKO
(BINK)
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH TRAINING ...!
...YOU DON'T.....
?

SUN (SNIFFLE)
スンスン
SUN
.....
DID IT HURT...?
...I'M SORRY.
...BUT THAT'S PROBABLY WHY YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, STAZ-SAN.
...OH, OF COURSE.
A PUNCH FROM ME WOULDN'T HURT ANYONE...
.....
...NOT EVEN A LITTLE ...

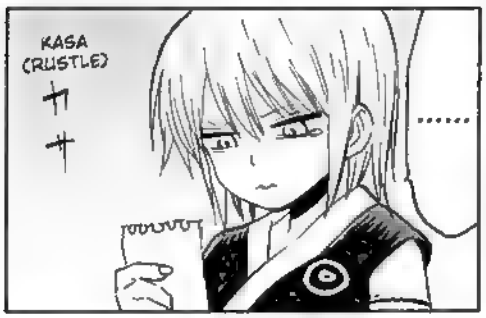
...WELL, I GUESS IT SHOULDN'T BE ME.
WHY'RE YOU APOLO-GIZING...?
...I'M SORRY.
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO MADE IT SOUND SUSPICIOUS...

'COS, Y'KNOW ...
...WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?

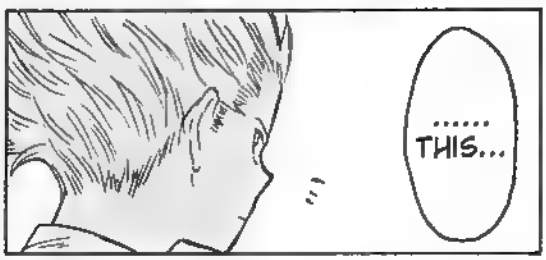

BUT, BELL... YOU'RE IN THE WRONG HERE TOO.
YEAH ...
DID THE OLD MAN REALLY ASK YOU TO?

YOU SHOULDA JUST COME BACK WITHOUT PULLING ANY STUNTS.

SO YOU CAN START THE NEXT PHASE, INSTRUC-TOR.
I'LL TALK TO THAT DUMBASS.


KASA (RUSTLE)
.....

KASA

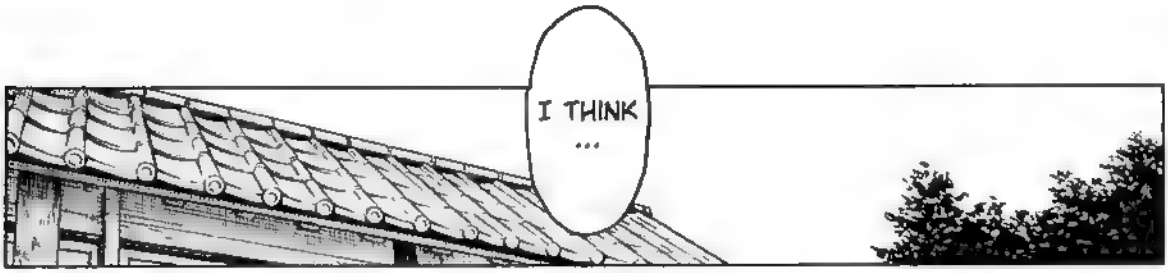

.....
THIS...

...IS FROM THE OLD MAN...
.....

.....

OH...
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT VERY WELL...
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING AT ALL.
...YES, AND... THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
... WHAT NOW?
YOU JUST SEE BELL-SAN AS STRONG ...
...AND ME AS WEAK...
...AND YOU'RE ONLY SEEING WHAT'S ON THE SURFACE.
BUT I THINK SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE REASON WHY HE'S GETTING HIT...
...WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO READ AN ATTACK!

NEVER
...


I THINK
...

.....
STAZ.

...THE REASON WHY STEP-SAN TOLD US ALL TO HIT YOU...
...WAS BECAUSE HE WANTED YOU TO REALIZE THAT.....

HEY, WHY ARE YOU DOWN IN THE DUMPS TOO? WHAT A PAIN.
I'M JUST TRYING TO THINK.
I'M NOT IN THE DUMPS.
SEE, YOU'RE TOTALLY DOWN IN THE DUMPS.
I AM NOT!
ALL THE LADIES HATE ME. IT'S COMEDY GOLD.
YEAH, YEAH. LAUGH IT UP.
PA HA HA!
'COS EVEN FUYUMI HAD TO WALLOP YOU.
LOOK.
THIS IS THE NOTE THAT GRAMPS LEFT HER WITH.
YOU'RE ALREADY IN BAD SHAPE. LEMME DELIVER THE KNOCKOUT BLOW.
SU (FSH)
WHAT-EVER.

...YOU'RE A MANIPULATOR OF SPACE, AREN'T YOU?
...BY THE WAY...
SO... HOW ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS...?
I'D LIKE YOU...TO USE THAT POWER IN THEIR TRAINING.
YEAH... SO?
TE...
HERE'S THE MORNING SCHEDULE.
6:30 Get up, breakfast
7:00 In space created by Instructor Bell:
TENGU FESTIVAL

YOU KNOW, THOUGH... IT SAYS ON PAPER THAT THIS IS THE NEXT PHASE OF TRAINING. BUT IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE IT'LL BE THAT DIFFERENT, DOES IT...?
.....
STUCK IN A ROOM WITH A TENGU, PROBABLY NO WAY OUT... GONNA BE A HELL OF A MORNING.
YEP...
STRAIGHT TO HELL, HUH...
ANYWAY ...
.....
YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO HER TOO.
STILL, WE JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS AND ENDED UP BEING MEAN TO BELL...
..... YEAH.
THREE WEEKS...?
ABOUT THE OLD MAN.

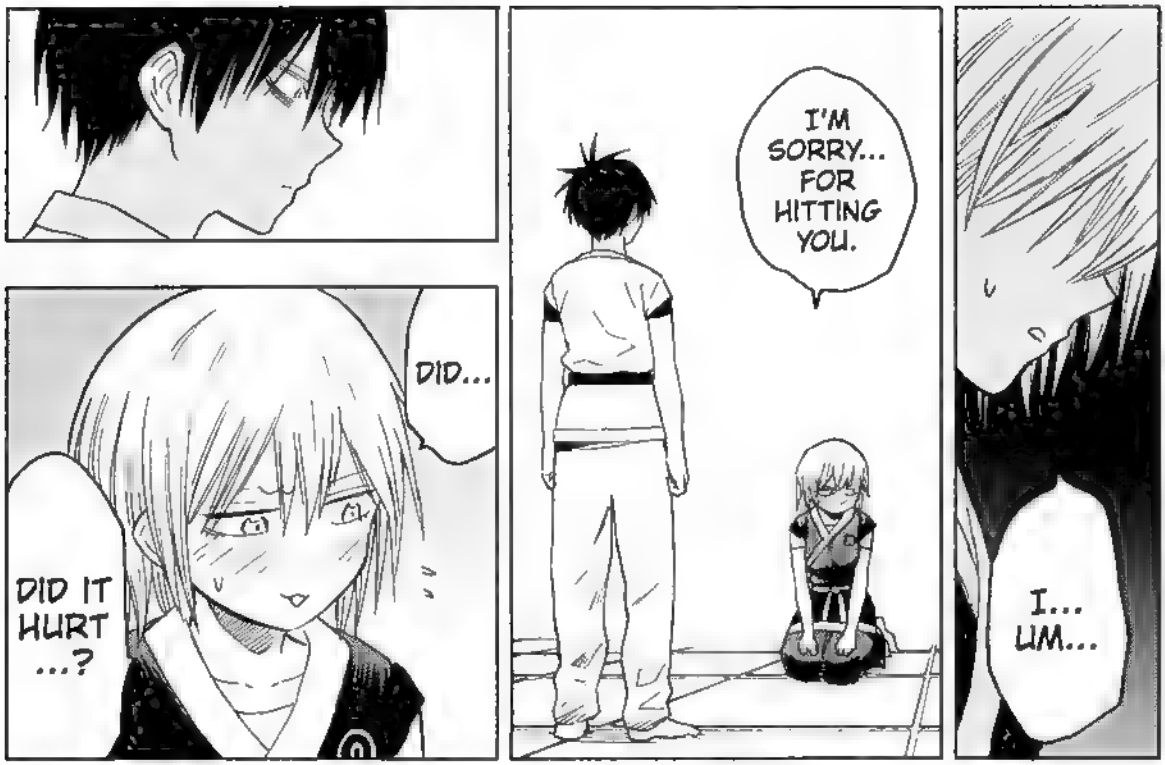
TV: WHAT IS THE BLACKLIST!?

.....
BLACK-
LIST...?
SO IT SOUNDS LIKE HE REALLY IS IN A HURRY...
WITH JUST THREE WEEKS OF TRAINING ...

THAT'S RIGHT.
...WITHOUT US KNOWIN'.
YEAH... SEEMS LIKE SOME PEOPLE'VE BEEN BUSY...

KNELL ...
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE, STAZ?
PIRA (FWIP)
ピラoo
MY SISTER'S GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.

.....
BIKU (STARTLE)
NU (NWOP)
WHY IN HERE?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO TELL ME?
.....
HEY.


I'M SORRY... FOR HITTING YOU.
I... UM...
DID...
DID IT HURT ...?

SO WHY ARE YOU BEING SO...NICE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
GOSO
FUYUMI TOO... YOU'RE BOTH WEIRD.
..... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU...?
YOU'VE ALWAYS SMACKED ME AROUND WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

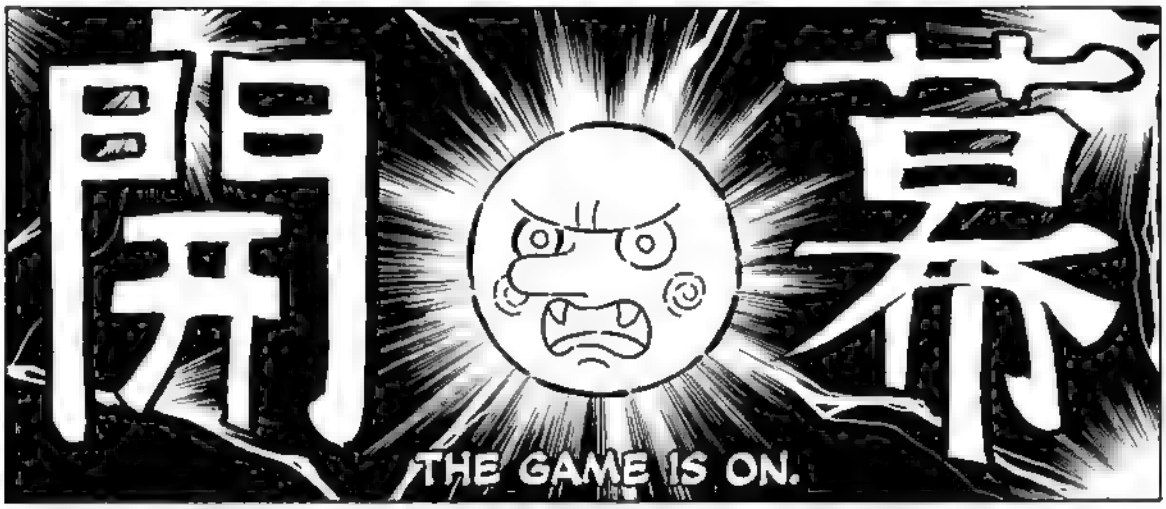
.....
HERE.

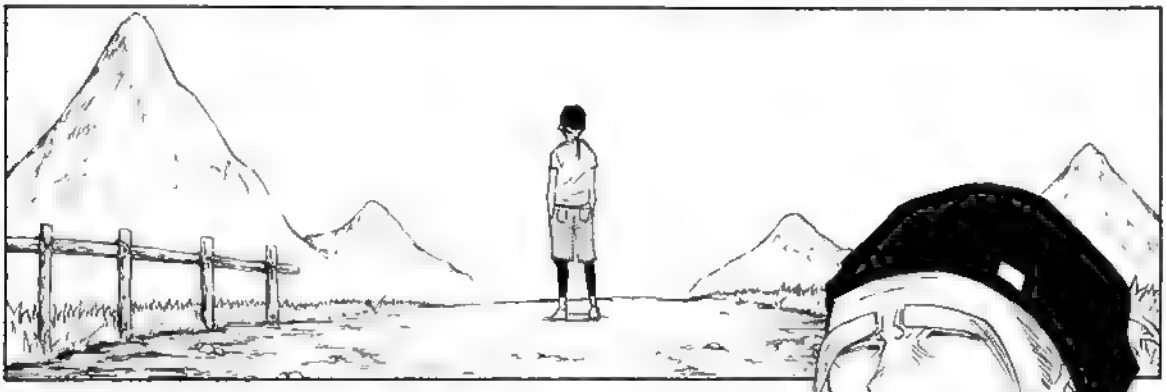
.....
THANKS ...
INSTRUC-TOR.
I'M SORRY I GOT SUSPICIOUS ...
HERE'S TO THE TENGU FESTIVAL TOMORROW.
KASHU (PSHT)
WELL THEN, WE'RE COOL.

KAN (TUNK)
SO GO EASY ON ME, OKAY...?
I MEAN, FOR REAL.
HUH.
GOOD NIGHT.
I'M GONNA TAKE A BATH AND GO TO SLEEP.
MAN...I'M ALREADY TIRED SOMEHOW ...
THANKS, WOLF.

ばあーーーーん!!
BAAAAAN (BOOOM)
GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT!!
KA (FLASH)
THE TENGU FESTIVAL WILL NOW BEGIN!!
ALL RIGHT. IS EVERY-ONE READY!?
どーでん
DODEN (PAPUM)
THERE WILL BE NO MERCY HERE!!
PLEASE GO EASY ON US...
...UH, BELL...
IT LOOKS LIKE...I WORRIED TOO MUCH AFTER ALL...
AND YOU'LL ADDRESS ME AS INSTRUC-TOR, NOT BELL!
SI-LENCE!
HEY...WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR MEMORY? YESTERDAY YOU SAID YOU WOULD...
SORRY... SHE WAS PRETTY DOWN YESTERDAY ...

YOU WILL EACH ENTER SEPARATE GRID ROOMS, MADE BY MYSELF.
AND THEN, AVOID THE TENGU'S ATTACKS!!
THE RULES ARE AS FOL-LOWS!!
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME-THING CLICKED FOR HER...
Sketch Book
INCIDENTALLY THE TENGU HAD A HEALTHY BREAKFAST AND IS NOW AT MAXIMUM POWER!
SHUBA (FWISH)
しゅばばば
BA
BA
BA
WHICH SIDE GETS ATTACKED WHEN AND HOW IS COMPLETELY UP TO THE TENGU!
NOW, LET THE TENGU FESTIVAL ...
KARAN
カラン
KARAN (CLATTER)
カラン
...BEGIN!


開幕
THE GAME IS ON.



HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
...THE TENGU FESTIVAL SHOULD BE STARTING ABOUT NOW.
HA HA.
MAS-TER!!

オオオ…
OOO (WOOOH)
SOMEONE FELL OUT OF THE SKY.
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
…WHAT IS THE MATTER, PATI?
JUST NOW…… BEHIND THE HOUSE …
I THINK IT MIGHT BE THE PERSON YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY …
… WHAT …?
OOO (LOOM)
AKIM …

ドン
DON (BOOM)
HUHHH...
OOO (WOOH)
I THOUGHT I CAME DOWN IN THE SAME PLACE AS PAPA.
WONDER WHERE I AM?
.....
IS THAT... AKIM?
... WELL?

WE'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
WE ABSOLUTELY CAN'T LET HER FIND US.
WHAT DO WE DO...?
NO...
BUT IT IS SOMEONE CLOSE TO HIM...
スン
SUN
スン
SUN
(SNIFF)
ピク
PIKU
(TWITCH)
WHAT'S WRONG, PATI?
COME ON, KEEP UP...
ダッ
DA
(DASH)

DON (BOOM)
HUH...
DO (VMM)
YOU SEEM KINDA FAMILIAR ...
To Be Continued

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 59 ♠
THE TENGU FESTIVAL BEGINS!

ドーン
DON
(BOOM)

STOP
!!
DON'T
YOU
LAY A
FINGER
ON
HIM!!

I KNEW
IT...
GOKU
(ULP)
ゴク…

YOU
WERE
ON THE
LIST...
I'VE SEEN
THAT FACE
BEFORE.
OOOOO
(LOOM)

I'M THE ONE YOU'VE GOT A QUARREL WITH.
GWOOOOH
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME AT ME, THEN COME...!
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZNNN
OKAY.
.....

STRAIGHT FOR ME...!!
IT'S NOT A FEINT.
SHE'LL ATTACK WITH HER RIGHT HAND...!!
VO (VOOM)

BITA (STOP)

SHE DIDN'T... MEAN TO ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING ...
WHAT?
I CAME AT YOU.
WHA...
?
GU (CLENCH)
IN THAT CASE...
BOKUN (WHONK)
WHOA ...

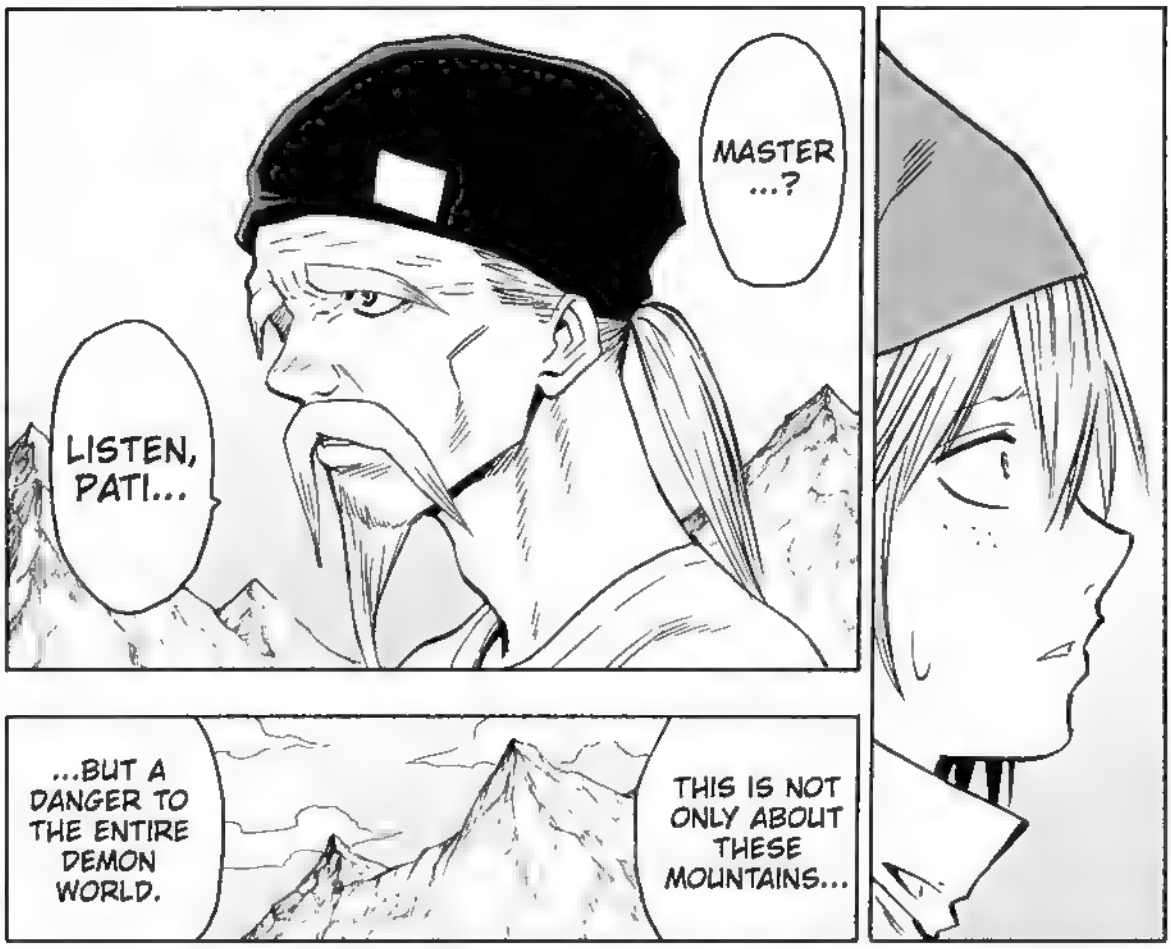
I WON'T HOLD BACK...!
OO (VOOM)
DOGYA (WHAM)

THAT WAS A PERFECT STRIKE...
.....
ボォオン
BOOON (BOOM)
HE SHOCKS HER BRAIN AND STOPS HER HEART.
MASTER'S INSTANT-DEATH COMBO MOVE...
BUT YOU JUST...
GET OUT OF HERE ...?
HUH ...?
GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, PATI!?

WHOA!!
DO (THUD)
THAT'S... NO WAY...!
HOW CAN SHE BE TOTALLY FINE...?
...THAT WAS...
...FUN.
ピョコ
PYOKO
ピョコ
PYOKO (BOB)
DO IT AGAIN.

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO DO THAT STUFF FOR A WHILE.
PAPA SAID SO.
...D... DIDN'T YOU COME TO KILL ME...?
WHY WOULD I?
...WHY... SO YOU DIDN'T ...?
WHICH MEANS THAT RIGHT NOW... SHE HAS NO WILL TO FIGHT. WHAT'S MORE...
...AHA. SO THIS ONE...
SO I'M BORED.
...MERELY OBEYS AKIM...
...SHE'S FORBIDDEN ...
OOH.
...FROM ATTACKING US AT ALL.

PAT!
...
NEVER MIND RUNNING.
IT'S SO FUNNY!
WHAAAT IS IT?
BASA (FLAP)
BASA
WE'LL KEEP HER HERE... AND FIND A WEAKNESS.
WE HAVE THREE WEEKS ...
...WE LAY HER TO REST...
AND, IF WE CAN...


MASTER ...?
LISTEN, PATI...
...BUT A DANGER TO THE ENTIRE DEMON WORLD.
THIS IS NOT ONLY ABOUT THESE MOUNTAINS...
...I'M SORRY, KIDS... I WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN...
WE MUST DO ALL THAT WE CAN...
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO (RUMBLE)
BUT I BELIEVE IN YOU...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO WATCH OVER YOUR TRAINING...

オオオオ
OOOO (LOOM)
(HUFF!)
(HUFF!)
(HUFF!)
(HUFF!)
ANY-TIME NOW ...
ズ ZU
ズ ZU (WHOM)
ズ ZU
WHERE ARE YOU GONNA COME FROM NEXT...
ド DO
ド DO (VMM)
ド DO
HA!
BA (TURN)

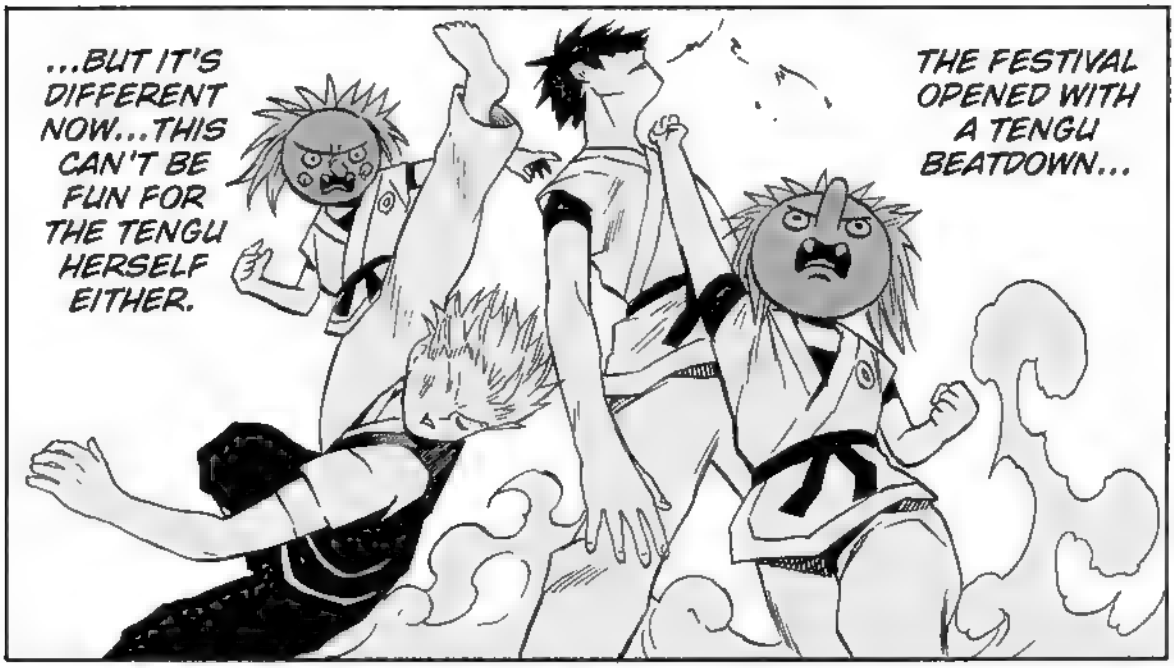
GYUO (ZOOM)
BO (POP)
ZU (WOOM)
SHUBA (FWOOSH)
ACK!
TA (TMP)
BUN (VMM)

GYUO (ZOOM)
AAAH!
DA (DASH)
ZU (VWOM)
SHUBA (FWOOSH)
NGH!
HFF! HFF!
BUN (VMM)

KAPO (PUK)
I'M TAKING A SHORT BREAK.
HFF! HFF! HFF!
OKAY...
WANT ANYTHING TO DRINK, TENGU-SAMA?
THEY'RE GETTING USED TO IT, HUH...
GIMME SOME WATER!
HERE YOU GO.
N (GULP) N
N
.....
OH!
YOUR SECRET IDENTITY'S TOTALLY EXPOSED NOW...
...YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
BY THE WAY ...
ぷはっ PUHA (AHH)
I'M FINALLY GETTING IT... THE WAY TO DODGE LIZ— ER, THE TENGU...
D... DON'T TELL ANYONE!
HFF! HFF!

SO WHEN SHE AIMS FOR MY UPPER BODY... LIKE MY FACE, SHE HAS TO JUMP!!
IF SHE JUMPS, SHE'LL STRIKE UPPER—IF SHE DOESN'T JUMP, LOWER...!!
THE TENGU IS SHORT...!
HAH.
AND WHERE SHE APPEARS IN THE GRID WILL LET ME PREDICT THAT.
IF I CAN TELL FROM HER STARTING MOTION WHERE THE ATTACK WILL FALL, I CAN DODGE IT.
GIVE ME A WEAPON.
WE NEED TO CHANGE SOME-THING.
WE'VE GOT THIS TENGU FESTIVAL DOWN...!!

BUT, HMM...
.....
DO YOU WANT TO KILL THEM?
HEY, UH...
AN AX WOULD BE GOOD.


...BUT IT'S DIFFERENT NOW...THIS CAN'T BE FUN FOR THE TENGU HERSELF EITHER.
THE FESTIVAL OPENED WITH A TENGU BEATDOWN...

BAT: DEATH

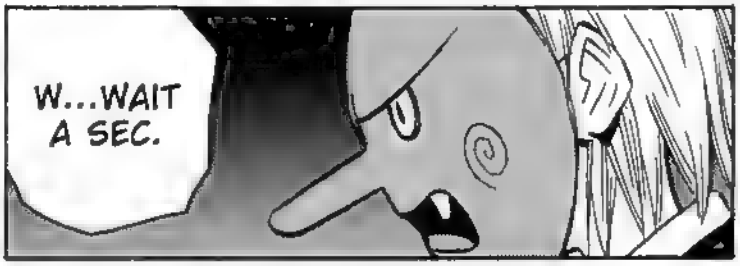
AND ONE MORE THING.
THIS IS A WEAPON THAT'LL HAVE SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON WOLF.
HERE, USE THIS.
OKAY, SURE.
ZU (VWOM)
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THINGS UP...

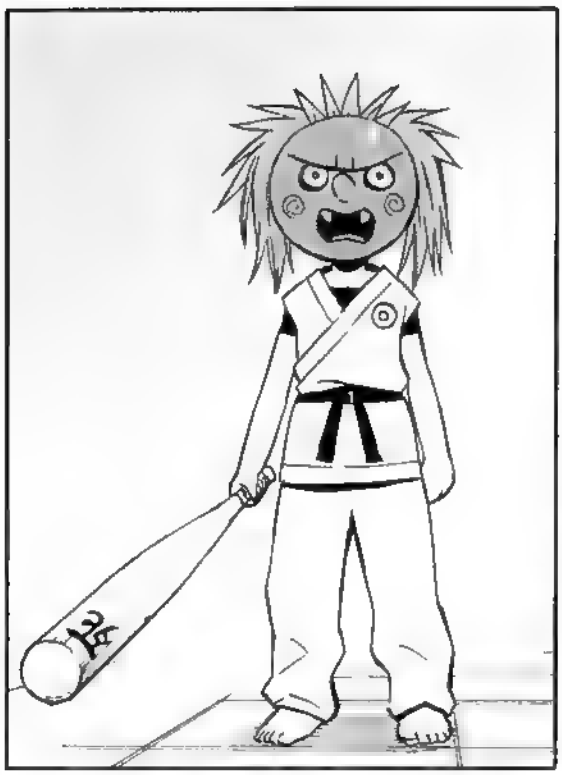
DON'T TELL ANYONE ...
YOU MEAN ...!
SU (LIFT)
HERE ...
THE TRUTH IS...I AM LIKE YOU.
KAPO (PUK)
YES...
DO
DO (VIBRATION)
...MUST GO ON.
THE TENGU FESTI-VAL...

NOW FOR THE SECOND ACT...
GO (RUMBLE)
GO
GO
GO
GO

.....
BELL, WHAT'RE YOU DOING ...?

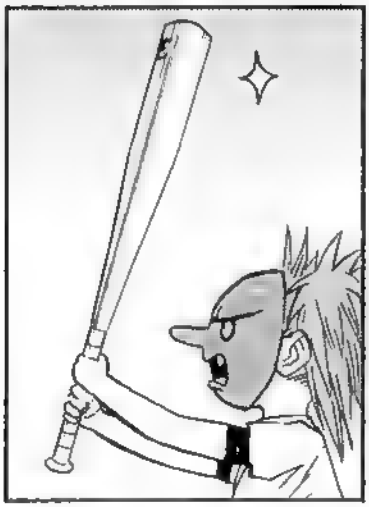
WHA...

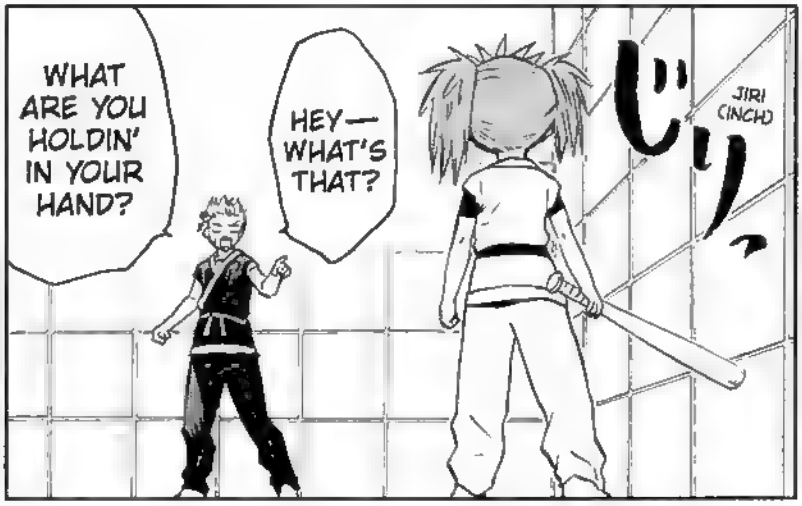

W...WAIT A SEC.



ENOUGH WITH THE PLAY-ACTING.
C'MON, I'M TALKING TO YOU.
?

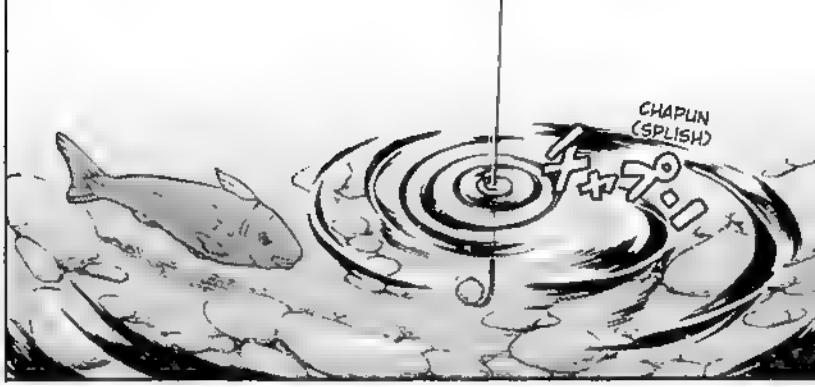
DON'T GIMME THAT! THE LITTLE SHORT TENGU!
HM?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER TENGU!?



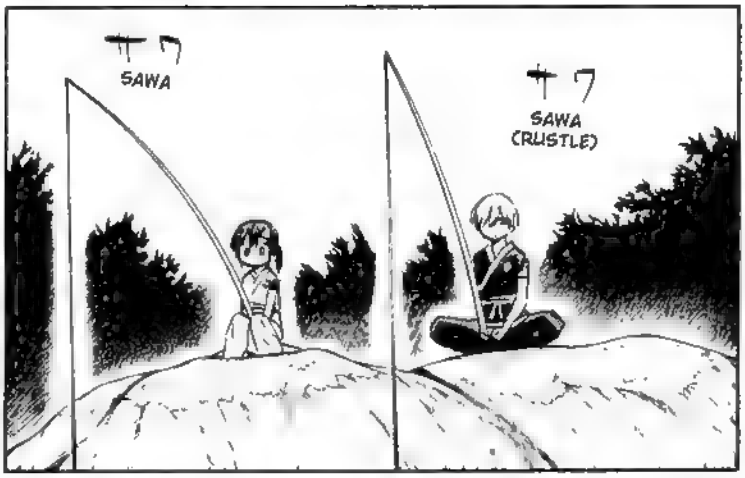

WHAT ARE YOU HOLDIN' IN YOUR HAND?
HEY— WHAT'S THAT?
じりっ
JIRI (INCH)

DON'T YOU SEE?
HEY, DON'T JUST RUSH ME! ANSWER ME!!
ダッ
DA (RUSH)

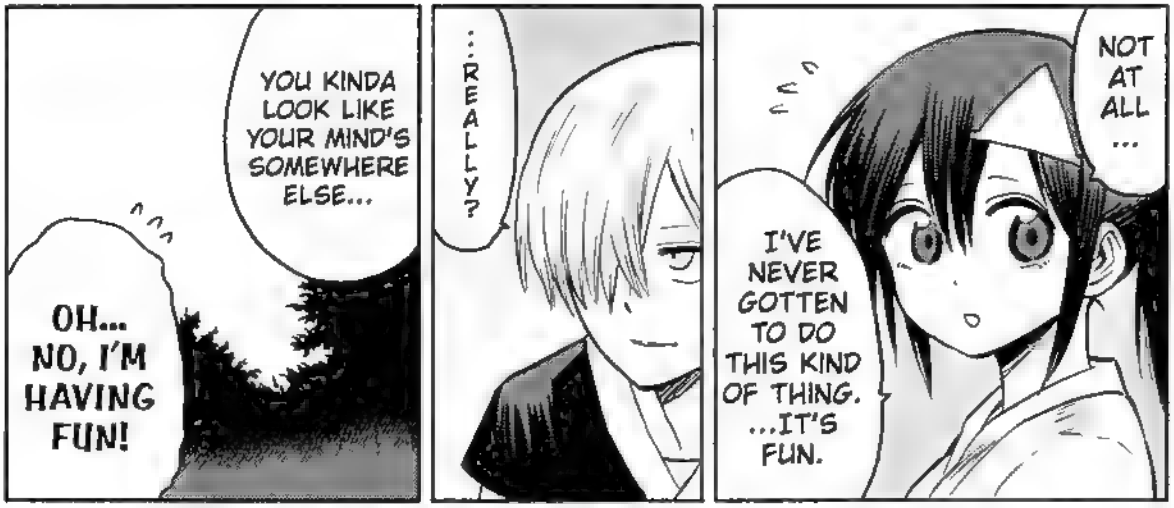
BAN (BAM)
AND NOW THE FESTIVAL TRULY BEGINS.
THERE ARE TWO TENGU...
ACT TWO ...!
THE GAME IS ON.
DODON (BADUM)
SAWA
SAWA (RUSTLE)


CHAPUN
(SPLISH)
チャプ…

……
THEY'RE NOT BITING, ARE THEY.


SAWA
SAWA
(RUSTLE)

NOW I FEEL BAD FOR DRAGGING YOU ALONG.
MAYBE IT'S THE BAIT.
…NO, NOT REALLY.


YOU KINDA LOOK LIKE YOUR MIND'S SOMEWHERE ELSE…
OH… NO, I'M HAVING FUN!
…REALLY?
NOT AT ALL …
I'VE NEVER GOTTEN TO DO THIS KIND OF THING. …IT'S FUN.

PAKU (BITE)
N-NO...! I MEAN, NOT JUST ABOUT STAZ... UM...
OH, ABOUT STAZ?
I WAS JUST WORRYING ABOUT THE TENGU FESTIVAL.
.....
OOH, YOU HOOKED ONE!
BURU (SHAKE)
BURU
KNELL-SAN!
I, I, I...I HOOKED IT! NOW WHAT DO I DO!?
AH!
BIN (TUG)
OH...
FIRST JUST CALM DOWN AND TAKE IT SLOW...
.....
WELL, YOU'LL CATCH IT NEXT TIME.
AW...SO CLOSE.
IT GOT AWAY...
PURAN (POINK)

ARE YOU OKAY WITH HIM?
HUH...?
ABOUT STAZ...
IF YOU DON'T REEL HIM IN WHEN YOU'VE GOT HIM ON THE HOOK...
...HE'LL GET AWAY, JUST LIKE THAT FISH.
...OH.
.....

WHOSE SIDE AM I ON, ANYWAY...?
AW, MAN... I HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL.
SORRY. FORGET I SAID ANY-THING.
BUT FUYUMI-CHAN IS SORT OF MY SISTER TOO...
.....
I'M ROOTING FOR MY SISTER, BUT...
OOOOOOH WELL...
SAWA
SAWA (RUSTLE)
DA (DASH)
EITHER WAY, HYDRAKNELL IS PULLING FOR HIS SISTER!

KURU (SPIN)
ZUBA (FWOOM)
OOP!
BOGO (BONK)
GUH!
!
ZU (VWOM)
BUN (VM)

THAT'S SO CHEAP...
URG...
BEN (FLOP)
OH HO HO!
WHAT ABOUT THE TINY TENGU?
SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?
YOU'RE JUST USING TELEPORTATION MAGIC.
...THE LITTLE ONE'S OVER THERE FIGHTING WITHOUT ANY TRICKS. NO TELEPORTING.
IF YOU'RE IN HERE FIGHTING ME ONE-ON-ONE, THEN THAT MEANS...
ISN'T IT KIND OF EMBARRASSING FOR A FULL-GROWN TENGU?
ALL YOU'RE DOING IS SHOWING OFF YOUR OWN POWERS. THAT MASK DOESN'T COVER YOUR SWELLED HEAD!
.....

STOP HIDING YOURSELF AND COME AT ME, HYDRA-BELL.
SHOW ME HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.
YEAH. NO MORE TRICKS.
DITCH THE MASK TOO.
IF YOU INSIST, I SHALL FIGHT YOU WITHOUT TELEPOR-TATION.
... VERY WELL.
YOU ALREADY BROKE CHARACTER BEFORE. JUST DROP THE TENGU THING ALREADY.
HUH?
.....
NO I DON'T...
N...
YOU SUCK AT LYING!!
ヒク
HIKU "/ (TWITCH)
.....
BUT YOU JUST WANT TO BE ABLE TO SEE WHERE I'M LOOKING TO PREDICT MY MOVEMENTS.
WELL, DON'T YOU SOUND HIGH-AND-MIGHTY...

LET'S MAKE THAT THE GAME.
FINE, THEN.
IF YOU WANT THE MASK OFF, WHY DON'T YOU COME AND TAKE IT?
OOOO CLOCK
SOUNDS LIKE FUN...
SFX: KOKI (CRICK) KOKI
AND?
コキ
コキ
IF I DODGE ALL YOUR ATTACKS AND TAKE THE MASK, I WIN.

IF I LAND TEN HITS ON YOU WITHOUT LOSING MY MASK...
...THEN I WIN.

ZA
(KTCH)
PERFECT
...

TIME FOR A REAL GAME.

BRING IT...

GOOOO
GWOOOOH

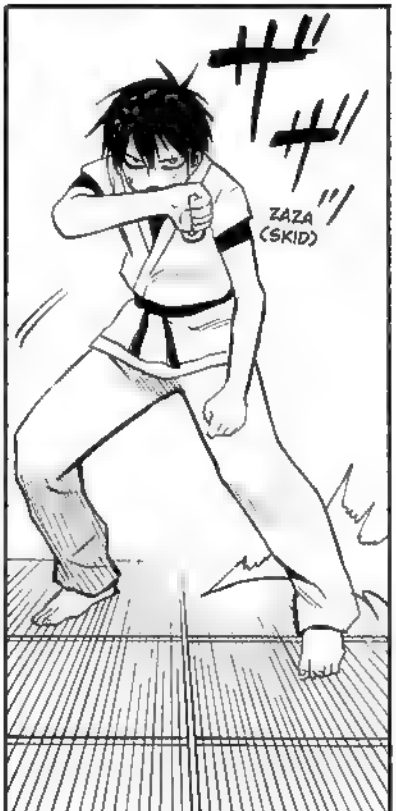
IT'S IN THE PILE.
.....
...AND PUT IT IN THE PILE WITHOUT LETTING ME SEE IT.
OKAY.
NOW...TAKE THAT CARD YOU'VE DRAWN...
WHAT WITH LEADER...? HE LOOK REALLY EXCITED.
AND I HAVEN'T SEEN IT, RIGHT!?
HMM ...
FE-MALE?
BABAAN (TA-DAA)
THIS IS YOUR CARD, ISN'T IT!?
MY DIAGNOSIS WOULD BE THAT OUR LEADER HARBORS SOME FONDNESS FOR THAT FEMALE.
ZA (KTCH)
YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN, KELLY.
?
?
NO, SHE IS A LADY...
SURE LOOK LIKE A MAN.
.....
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING? THAT A MAN.
ER...

MAGIC TRICKS, HUH... HOW NICE.
SO YOU LIKE MAGIC TRICKS, DO YOU.
WELCOME BACK, PAPA.
PLAYING CARDS?
Y-YES, SIRE.
I'M QUITE GOOD WITH MAGIC TRICKS, YOU SEE... SO...
PERFECT... I'LL SHOW YOU ONE, THEN.
UH...
A MAGIC TRICK OF MY OWN.

♠ To Be Continued ♠

BLOOD LAD

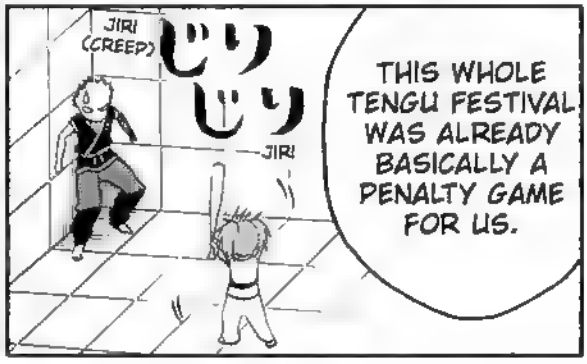
CHAPTER 60 ♠ TOP SECRET



WHAT'LL IT BE?
OH, WE HAVEN'T DECIDED ON THE LOSER'S PENALTY, THOUGH.

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE IT WASN'T ENOUGH OF A CHALLENGE.
JUST REPETITION.

SOON AS YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE UPPER HAND, YOU GET SO FULL OF YOURSELF.
YOU WEASEL ...


JIRI (CREEP)
JIRI
THIS WHOLE TENGU FESTIVAL WAS ALREADY BASICALLY A PENALTY GAME FOR US.

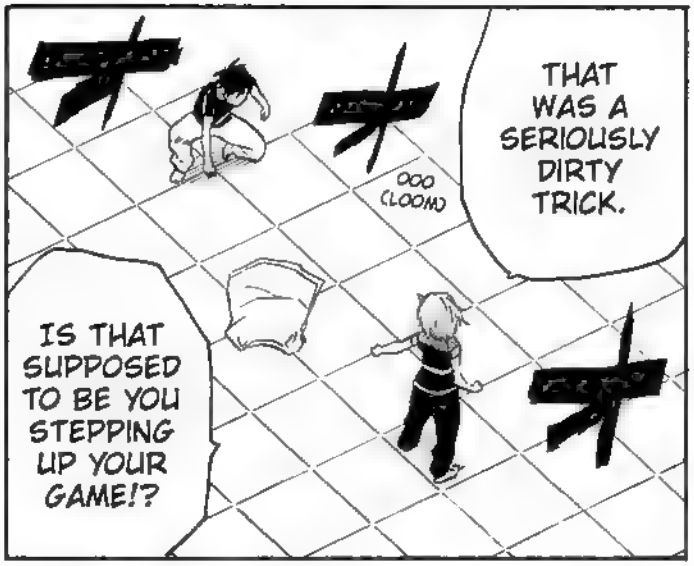
...THEN YOU GOTTA STEP UP YOUR GAME FIRST.
IF YOU WANT TO SEE HYDRABELL AND NOT THE TENGU...

...HOW ABOUT... YOU SPIT OUT ALL THE STUFF YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING FROM ME.
.....
しゅる…
SHURU (SLIDE)
IF I WIN...
OKAY THEN ...
WHAT, YOU THINK I DIDN'T NOTICE?
WAIT, WHY ARE YOU STRIPPING!?
UH... WHAT'S THAT... SUPPOSED TO...
WHY KNELL CAME ALONG INSTEAD OF BELL...
WHY FUYUMI'S BEING DISTANT...
IT'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING I DID AGAIN ANYWAY.
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME WHAT'S UP.

WHA—?
BA (PLING)
!
CRAP... HE BLINDED ME...
I'VE LOST HIM...
SUKA (FWOOSH)
BUN (SWING)

ZUZA (SKID)
GAN (WHAM)
NUM-BER SEVEN ...

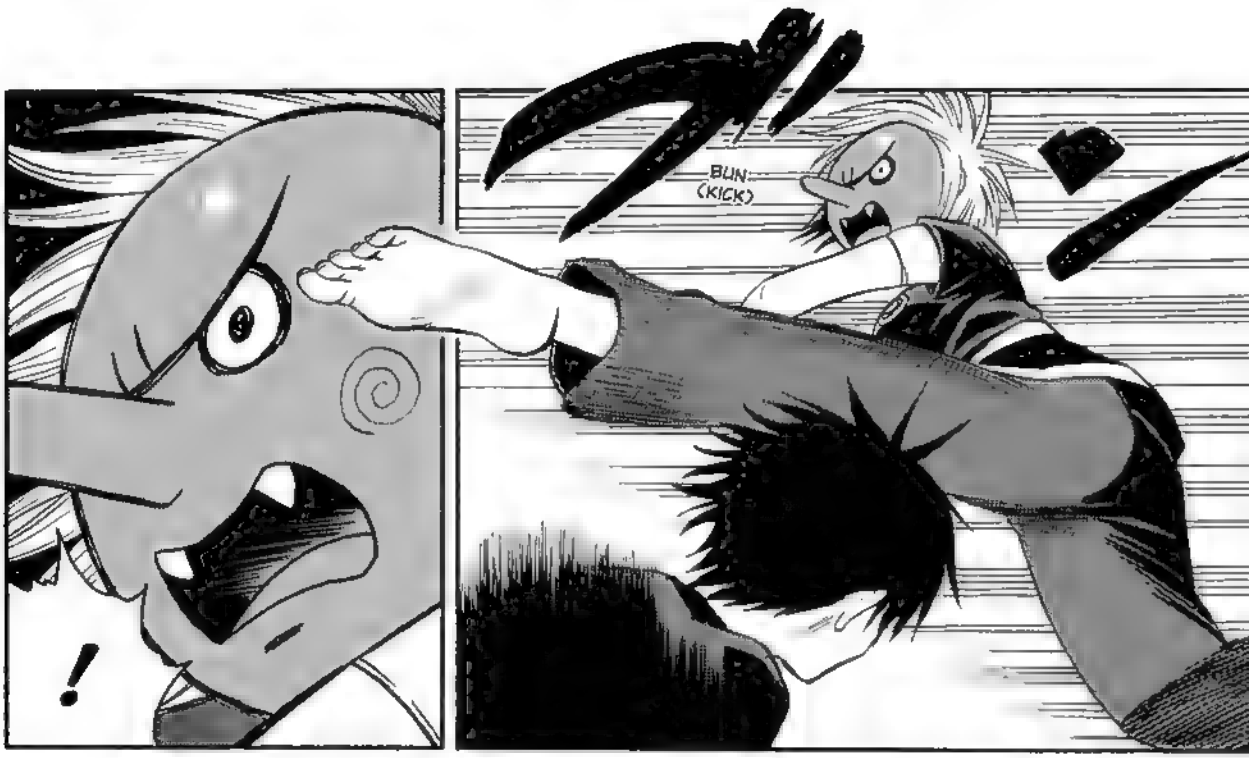
I DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN...
...'COS I'M THE BAD GUY.
I KNEW IT...SHE SHOWED ME JUST NOW...


THAT WAS A SERIOUSLY DIRTY TRICK.
OOO (LOOM)
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE YOU STEPPING UP YOUR GAME!?

YEAH. IT IS.

BELL THINKS I'M ONLY GOING TO AIM AT HER FACE TO TAKE THE MASK.
WELL, IF I WIN, HOW ABOUT YOU TURN FROM A BAD GUY INTO A SLAVE?
RIGHT... GUESS I FORGOT ABOUT THAT...
WHICH SHE COULDN'T HAVE DONE UNLESS SHE WAS TOTALLY CERTAIN THAT ALL MY ATTACKS WOULD BE AIMING FOR THE HEAD...
YEAH, FINE.
WHEN I SWUNG AT HER JUST NOW...
YOU REALLY WANT TO MAKE ME YOUR SERVANT THAT BAD?
WHAT, THAT AGAIN?
BUT SHE STILL DUCKED WITHOUT HESITATING.
...SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE ATTACK WOULD BE COMING FROM.
EITHER WAY, YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR OPPONENT IS THINKING.
ATTACKING AND DODGING...
YOU THINK?
IT'S THE SAME THING...
I'M NOT GONNA LOSE ANY-WAY.

SHE'S ADVANCING WITH HER FIST CLOSED...
SHU (FWISH)
BUT SHE DOESN'T WANT ME TO GET THE MASK.
THAT THOUGHT IS MAKING HER LEAN BACK.
DA (DASH)
THEN WHY DON'T WE...
...HURRY UP AND FINISH THIS!!
WHICH NATURALLY TURNS HER ATTACK...
...INTO A KICK AT MY HEAD...!!


!
BUN
(KICK)

...THAT I'LL AIM FOR HER FACE.

AND SHE'S ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN...

WHICH MEANS I CAN BE CERTAIN...

DON
(BOOM)
...THAT SHE'LL DUCK ...!!
WHA ...?
GA
(GRAB)
YES WAY.
NO WAY...

IF YOU TRY TO STAND UP OR MOVE BACK, THE MASK COMES OFF.
SO, NOW WHAT, BELL?

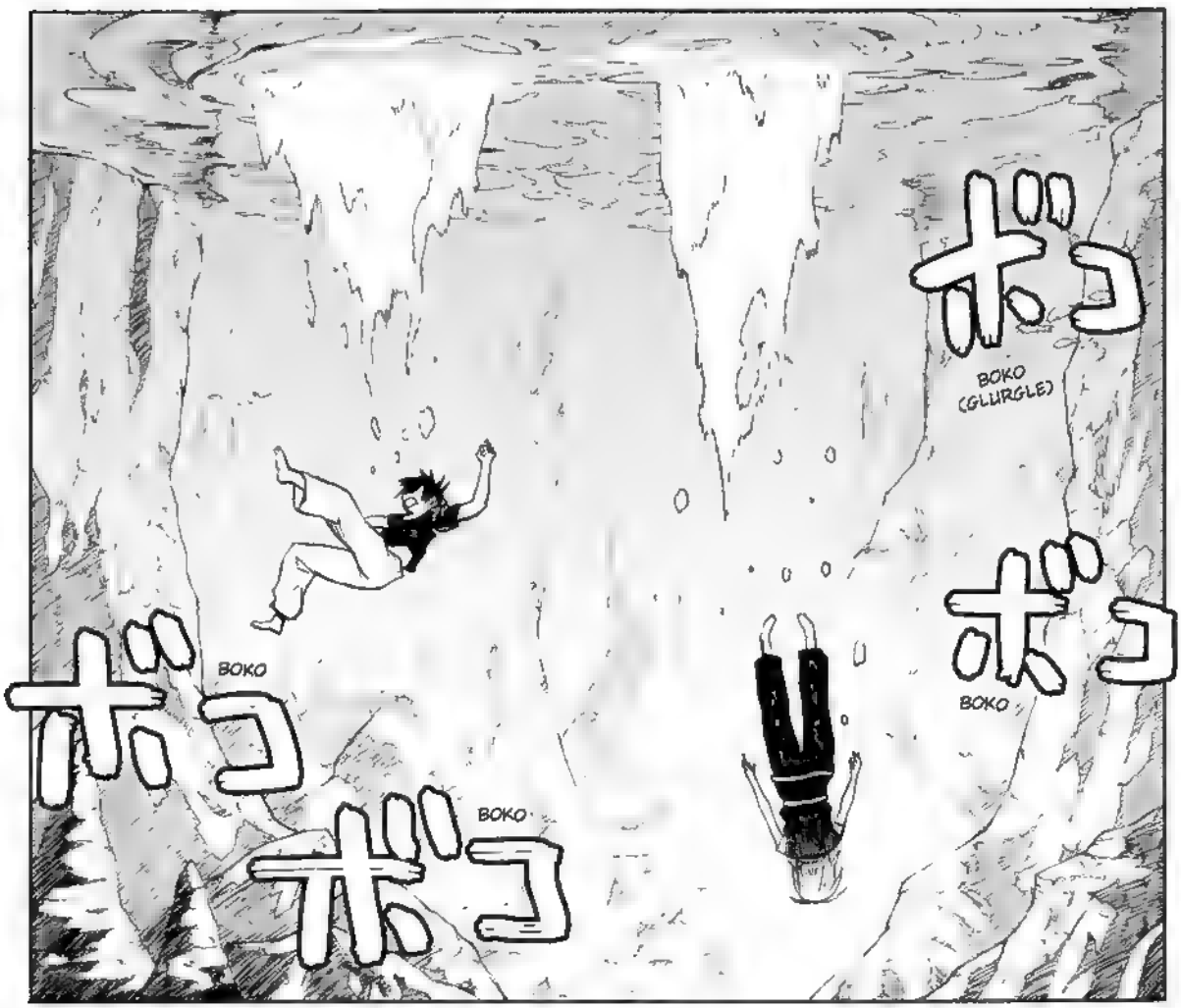
...BUT YOU NEED THREE MORE, SO YOU'LL STILL BE SHORT, HUH?
EVEN IF YOU USE BOTH HANDS TO HIT ME, THAT ONLY MAKES TWO HITS...
YOU COULD TRY TO ATTACK ME, BUT YOU CAN'T USE YOUR LEGS FROM THAT POSITION.

.....

I JUST READ EVERYTHING IN YOUR MIND...
CHECK-MATE.

WHOA!
!
BLIN (VWM)
WHA —?
WHERE'D WE GO!?

BA
(LEAP)
NGH—
GA
(WHAM)
URK!
ドボ
DOBO
(SPLASH)
ドボォン
DOBOON
(KASPLASH)


ボコ
BOKO
(GLURGLE)
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO

ZAPA (BOOSH)
BASHA (SPLISH)
TELEPORTING IS AGAINST THE RULES!!
PUKA (BOB)
HEY, WHAT THE HELL!?
GEHO (KOFF)
HUH...?
YOU REALLY WANNA WIN ALL THAT B—

ボコ
BOKO (GURGLE)
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ドブン
DOBUN (DIVE)
BRRRL!!
HFF...
HFF...
HFF...
HFF...

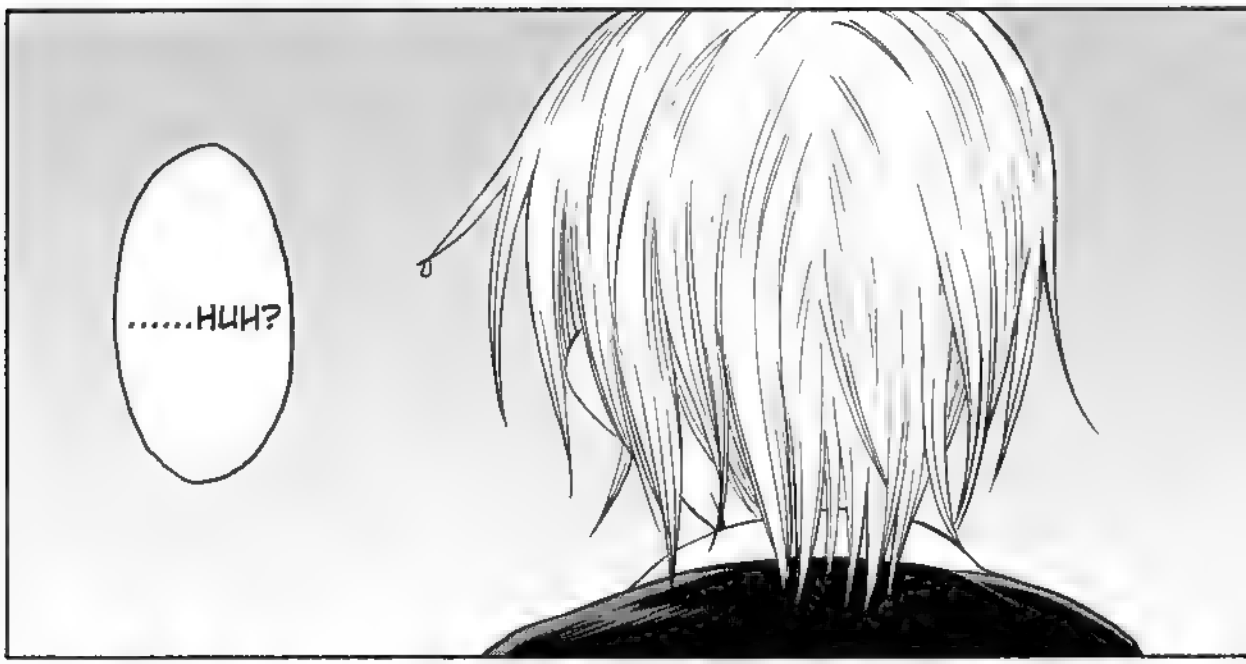
...BACK THERE...
HFF...
HFF...
HFF...
...I SAID... THAT I READ EVERYTHING IN YOUR MIND...
BUT I TAKE IT BACK...
WHAT WAS THAT STUNT FOR...?
I DON'T GET IT...
ARE... YOU...
.....
.....
BELL.
HEY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
.....

C'MON.
PESHI (SMACK)
ペシ!
PESHI
ペシ!
AN-SWER ME.
YUSA (SHAKE)
ユサユサ
YUSA
YOU'RE AWAKE, AREN'T YOU...?
PIKU (TWITCH)
ピク
BIKU (FLINCH)
ビクッ
PITA (PAUSE)
ぴた
IS YOUR HEART BEATING ...?
DOKUN
ドクン
DOKUN
ドクン
DOKUN
ドクン
DOKUN (BABUMP)
ドクン
.....

JEEZ, FOR A SECOND THERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA GIVE ME MOUTH-TO-MOUTH.
WHAT?
YOU JERK...
QUIT JOKING AROUND...
HOW DO YOU THINK I FELT...?
ACTU-ALLY...
I HAVE FEELINGS I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT...
I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M DOING THIS STUFF EITHER...
...THIS WHOLE TIME...
THE THING I WAS HIDING FROM YOU...
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

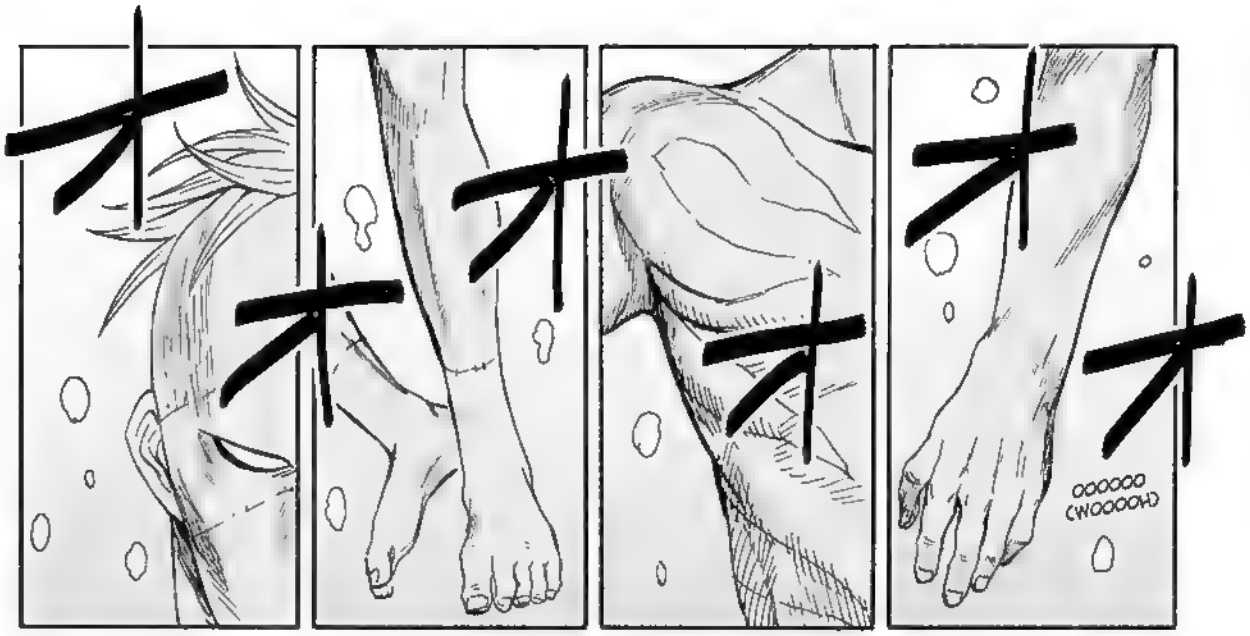
I LIKE YOU.

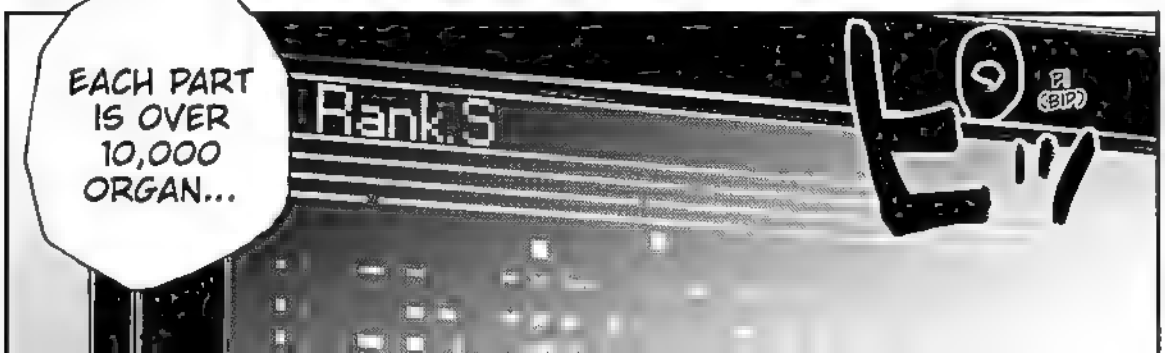
I LIKE YOU.


.....HUH?

SU
(SHF)
...

WAIT!
BELL!!
ドボオン
DOBOON (KASPLASH)
WHA...
HEY!
バシャバシャ
BASHA
BASHA (SPLASH)
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING YET!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY!?
HEY! HOLD ON!
BELL!!
ブク
BUKU
ブク
BUKU (BUBBLE)
AND WHERE ARE WE, ANYWAY!?


OOOOOO
(WOOOOH)


EACH PART IS OVER 10,000 ORGAN...
Rank S
(BIP)

ACTUALLY THESE ARE PARTS I WAS SAVING TO USE FOR MYSELF...
...BUT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS LETTING A TREASURE GO TO WASTE.

BRING ME PARTS TWO, SIX, EIGHT, ELEVEN, AND FOUR-TEEN.
.....
YES, SIRE.

SO I'VE DECIDED TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THEM.
WH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN TO DO, SIRE...?

JUST WAIT AND SEE.
BRAZ.

..... NO.
MAKE THAT TWO, FIVE, NINE, ELEVEN, AND THIRTEEN.

カタ KATA (AP)
カタ KATA

NO PROB-LEM, SIRE.
...NO.
IS THERE A PROB-LEM?
IT WASN'T JUST MY IMAGINATION... THERE'S... SOMETHING OFF ABOUT AKIM LATELY...
PUSHU' (PSSHT)
OOOO (LOOM)
MY MAGIC TRICK ...
AND NOW, THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR—

WATCH CLOSELY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THIS IS NOT SMOKE AND MIRRORS.
GO (RUMBLE)
GO
...IS NOTHING MORE THAN MY TREMENDOUS MAGIC POWER.
WHAT YOU'RE SEEING ...
AND BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES...
...WAS THE PART OF AKIM THAT IS AKIM...
WHAT SAVED ME AND THE OTHERS BEFORE...

HIS WHIMSY
VOILÀ ... ☆

...NO LONGER HAS THAT...
THIS AKIM...

AMBER.
THAT'LL BE YOUR NAME.

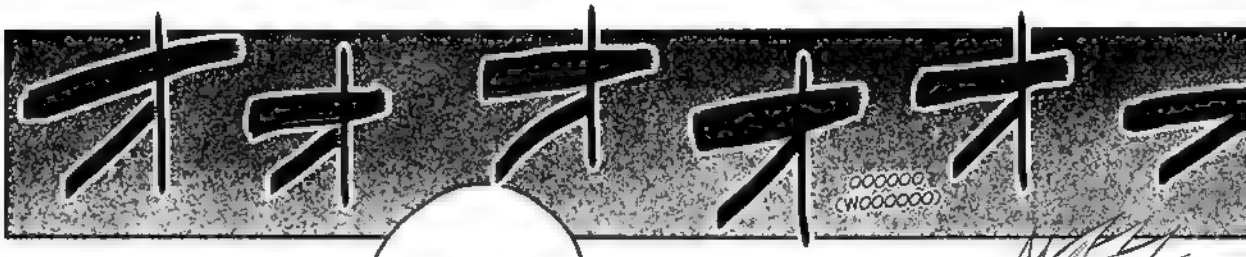
ズン
ZUN (THUD)
...HMM, LET'S SEE...
.....

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KELLY?
!

DO YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH AMBER?

THE SAME GAME YOU PLAYED WITH PAPA BEFORE...
.....

.....
AMBER
...


オオオオオ
OOOOOO (WOOOOOO)

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.

THE FIRST ONE TO TAKE SOMETHING WINS...
TAKE ONE OF YOUR OPPONENT'S PARTS, ANY PART.
...UP UNTIL NOW...
BUT THIS ONE...
UNDER-STOOD.
...THE ALTER EGOS THAT AKIM MADE WERE FILLED WITH MAGIC FROM "AKIM."

DON
(BOOM)
NOW, NOW, HOLD ON!
I NEVER SAID "GO"!
.....

DON'T LOOK SO UPSET, KELLY. HE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.
AH HA HA HA!
YOU'RE AN IMPATIENT FELLOW.
...

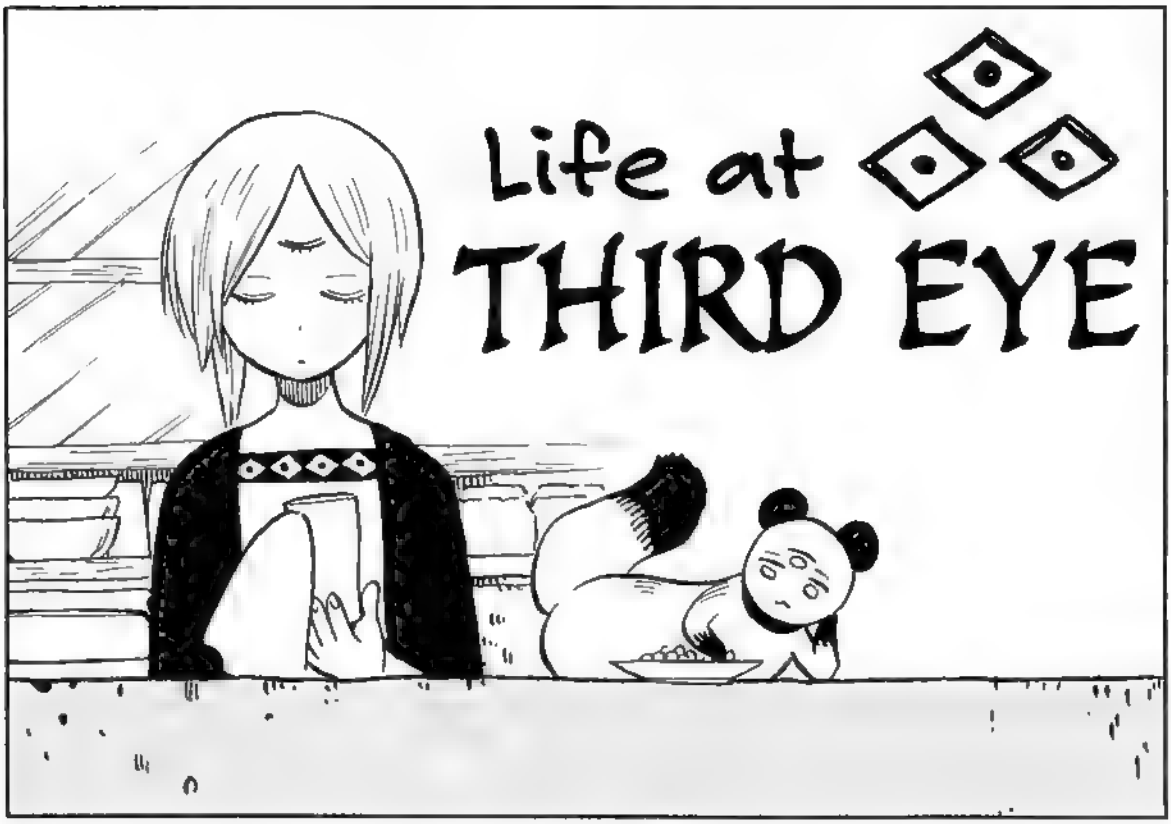
.....
AH HA HA HA HA!
HE JUST DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF THE GAME, THAT'S ALL!

AND EVEN NOW...IT CONTINUES TO DEVOUR.
THE MONSTER THAT DEVOURS EVERYTHING IS INSIDE OF AKIM!..
THERE'S NO MISTAKE ...

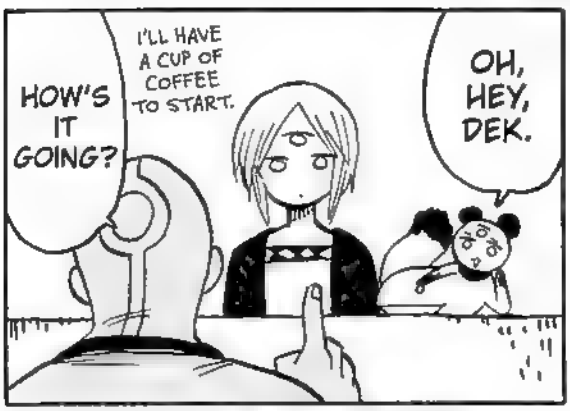
♠ To Be Continued ♠

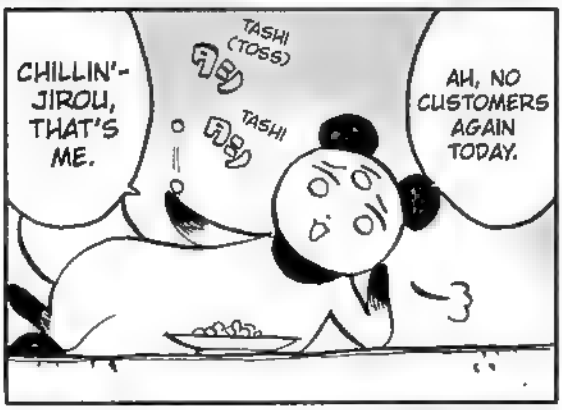
To Be
Continued

BLOOD LAD


Life at
THIRD EYE

CHILLIN'


HOW'S IT GOING?
I'LL HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE TO START.
OH, HEY, DEK.

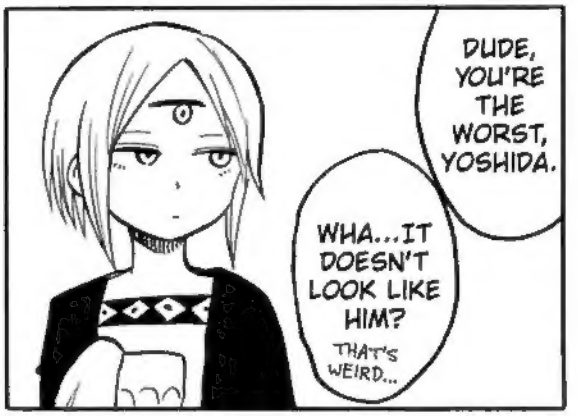

CHILLIN'-JIROU, THAT'S ME.
TASHI (TOSS)
TASHI
AH, NO CUSTOMERS AGAIN TODAY.

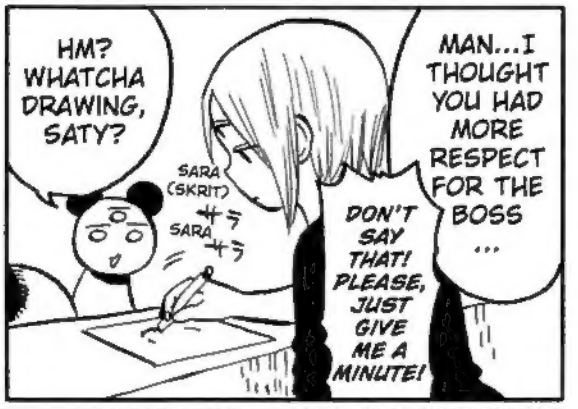
PORI
PORI (CRUNCH)
I'M HERE, SO WHAT'S THAT MAKE ME?
HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE CUSTOMER TODAY.

'SUP.
KARAN
KARAN (CRINGLE)

ARM
BEDSIDE
...WHAT'S THAT?
AN ARM!!
OH! RIGHT! NEXT TO MY BED—WAS THIS!
MO
BAN (BAM)
DEK-SAN!!
MO
THEN I LOST THE ARM, BUT I FOUND IT.
I WAS PLAYING WITH ONE OF THE BOSS'S FIGURES, AND IT BROKE...
I HAD A TER-RIBLE SHOCK!
YOU HAVE TO HEAR THIS!
HEY, YOSHIDA. WHAT'S UP?
6
THIS IS BAD...
SERI-OUSLY ...?
WELL, I'LL PUT IT BACK ON...
BUT NOW, I CAN'T FIND THE REST OF THE FIGURE...
MO
HUH... OH.
ICED TEA SYRUP AND PLENTY OF MILK!
HEY, WHAT'LL IT BE?
I WOKE UP, AND RIGHT NEXT TO MY BED WAS...
.....I HOPE YOU FIND IT.....
...WHEN I FIND THE REST OF THE FIGURE!
WHAT ABOUT NEXT TO MY BED?
HUH?
ONE MILK TEA!
AND NEXT TO YOUR BED WAS?
6

HIDDEN TALENT




HM? WHATCHA DRAWING, SATY?
SARA (SKRIT)
SARA
DON'T SAY THAT! PLEASE, JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE!
MAN...I THOUGHT YOU HAD MORE RESPECT FOR THE BOSS ...

HE FORGOT

BLOOD LAD 12

These images appeared under the jacket of the original edition of *Blood Lad*!

HUH... I THINK IT WAS AROUND VOLUME 2, RIGHT...
...WHEN I TOLD YOU IT'S GONNA BE ALL ME ALL THE TIME IN THIS SPACE...
MAN, I'M KINDA REGRETTING IT NOW...

BLOOD LAD 12

YUUKI KODAMA

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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